

## Iraq allows 10 Italians to leave

AMMAN (R) — Ten Italian men arrived in Jordan on an Iraqi Airways flight Wednesday after Baghdad freed them on health grounds. "I am very happy to have these 10 people out," legislator Mario Capanna of Italy's Greens Party, who travelled with the party after visiting Iraq, told reporters at Amman airport. Italian Ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten said the men, seven from Iraq and three from Kuwait, were all in poor health and that Iraq had let them fly out as a humanitarian gesture. They were the first group of Western men allowed to leave Iraq or Kuwait since U.S. politician Jesse Jackson brought 10 sick Americans out of Kuwait Sept. 2. Italy said earlier the release of the 10 would leave 310 Italians still in Iraq and 40 in Kuwait. Iraq is allowing Westerns and Japanese women and children to leave but is keeping most of their menfolk as deterrents against possible attack. Capanna said Italians still in Iraq were "under stress but the morale is high." The situation in Baghdad was "very normal, orderly."

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## Khamenei declares jihad against U.S.

Combien agency despatches

BAHRAIN — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday called for a holy war against the United States and said Muslims who die fighting the U.S. presence in the region would go to heaven as Islamic martyrs.

Speaking on Tehran Radio, Khamenei said: "Muslim nations will not allow America to set up its security and defence system in the region."

"The struggle against American aggression, greed, plans and policies in the 'Persian Gulf will be counted as jihad (holy war), and anybody who is killed on that path is a martyr," he said on the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

America should have learned its lesson from past events and its vulnerable presence," he added. Khamenei's remarks were

much the fiercest denunciation so far by Tehran of the Western-led military buildup. Iran has also attacked Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and said it will observe United Nations sanctions.

The radio did not say who Khamenei was speaking.

Khamenei, who took over from the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, said the preservation of regional security rested mainly on the countries of the Gulf.

"As on previous occasions we declare our preparedness to cooperate with the countries of the Persian Gulf region to restore security and to cut off the hands of those who commit aggression against the right of others."

Khamenei's remarks came three days after Iraq Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz met with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran. It was the first such visit by a high-ranking Iraqi official since

the start of the Gulf war a decade ago.

Diplomatic sources said the visit was part of Iraq's efforts to break the economic blockade preventing the import of food and other supplies and the export of oil, its chief source of revenue.

A source in Tehran said Iraq had agreed to sell food and medicine to Iraq (see page 2).

"We must inform all Muslim countries in the region that we oppose the American presence... its covetous designs," Khamenei said. "We greatly oppose the demanding, bullying and ugly spirit of American policy."

"What right do they have to say they must safeguard the security of the region, and that the continued security of the region requires them to be here, what business is it of theirs?" he asked.

Tehran Radio quoted

Khamenei as saying: "We are vehemently opposed to the presence of America to the Persian Gulf region as well as to its constantly increasing greed and its shameless policy in the region."

Khameini's remarks came

three days after Iraq Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz met with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran. It was the first such visit by a high-ranking Iraqi official since

the start of the Gulf war a decade ago.

The Tehran Times said on Wednesday that Iran was considering supplying food and medicine to Iraq and offering Baghdad an unspecified "outlet" in return.

The newspaper, close to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, published its report as non-aligned and industrial nations argued at the United Nations over whether shipping humanitarian food aid to Baghdad represented sanctious-busting.

Jordan and the PLO have

sought a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis.

They did not attend a meeting in Cairo on Monday at which 12 Arab states endorsed plans to move the Arab League's base

## King, Arafat discuss Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday held talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the Gulf crisis.

The two leaders discussed

"efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework," the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran attended the meeting, along with Arafat's number two Salah Khalaf and PLO Executive Committee member Abdullah Hourani.

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back to Cairo.

The PLO wants an ordinary league meeting originally due in Tunis next Monday to re-examine the transfer. The Cairo meeting voted to defer the ordinary session to Sept. 27.

Arafat left Rabat Tuesday after

talks with King Hassan of Morocco on the Gulf crisis and the rift in the Arab League over the relocation of its headquarters.

Arafat said he had briefed the

King on the PLO search for an

Arab solution to the Gulf crisis

and discussed how it was affecting

the Palestinian uprising.

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"The results of the Helsinki

summit reflected calls for easing the military danger in which the Soviet side stressed the need to give more of a chance to political solutions," a PLO Executive Committee statement said.

"This opens new horizons to solve the Gulf crisis and that of the Middle East, in particular the Palestinian question which has been burning for dozens of years."

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The PLO said Washington was

"contingent to beat the war drum (against Iraq)... and to persist in separating the Gulf crisis from the Palestinian question and to reject an international peace conference."

## Jordan urges better coordination in relief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday voiced Jordan's appreciation of the various international organisations and donor states which responded to the Jordanian government's appeal for aid to deal with the problem of evacuees and urged further cooperation to ensure the quick repatriation of the evacuees.

The Crown Prince also urged international organisations to coordinate their relief operations for the evacuees in Jordan with those of the Jordanian government and its different agencies and to secure air transportation for the evacuees.

Prince Hassan was addressing a meeting held at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Amman. The meeting was attended by representatives of all local and international agencies concerned with the relief assistance to the evacuees crossing Jordan's borders from Iraq and Kuwait.

Foreign embassies accredited to Jordan were also represented at the meeting. These included embassies of France, Yemen, U.N., Canada, Japan, Australia, Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, Philippines, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Spain, India, Germany and Belgium, according to the UNDP office.

(Continued on page 2)

## Iraq vows not to bow to U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq, vowed to

retreat from U.S. military pressure or blackmail, Wednesday de-

nounced a speech to congress hy-

U.S. President George Bush and

accused him of wanting to take

over the world.

"The U.S. president's address

is a model speech by an imperialist ruler who wants to impose his power on the world," said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

"Most of the globe's peoples,

the Arabs in the forefront, reject

that and insist on preserving their

independence and free will," said

Aziz, quoted by the Iraqi News

Agency (INA).

An INA commentary, moni-

tored in Cyprus, said: "a hostile

evil trend still dominates this

man's (Bush's) mentality... and

his personal desire to lead the

world on his own."

It added: "Bush must under-

stand that threats, betting on the

time factor, and blackmail

through U.S. decisions issued by

the U.N. Security Council will

not make Iraq retreat in the face

of U.S. arrogance in any cir-

## U.N. to urge immediate sanctions aid

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The U.N. Security

Council committee studying

assistance to countries adversely

affected by the council's imposed

sanctions on Iraq, Wednesday

appealed in a draft resolution to

all states to provide immediate

technical, financial and material

assistance to Jordan to alleviate

the difficulties the country is fac-

ing through adherence to the

resolution 661.

According to the draft resolution,

the U.N. secretary general is to

"urture... full assess-

ment in cooperation with the

government of Jordan, of the

problems resulting from the

"Gulf crisis." It also calls on the

secretary general to appoint a

special representative to coordi-

ne assistance to the kingdom. The committee was established by Security Council resolution 661, which imposed sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, to study requests for aid under article 50 of the United Nations charter.

The draft urged that Jordan be "commended" for the measures it has taken to "fully comply with resolution 661."

The committee's recommendations included requesting the United Nations and specialised agencies as well as humanitarian agencies to help Jordan in its present economic situation to intensify their programmes of assistance in response to the pressing needs of Jordan.

The draft paper expressed con-

## Aga Khan appointed as de Cuellar's personal representative

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday appointed Sadruddin Aga Khan as his personal representative for humanitarian assistance relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait and in particular the problems of the Third World countries' nationals.

In a memorandum submitted to the council the, Jordan said it would face special economic problems within the meaning of article 50 of the U.N. charter.

Article 50 allows countries affected by sanctions to appeal the problem with the Security Council and apply for compensations.

This decision was taken by the secretary-general "given the multi-faceted nature of the problem and the magnitude of the challenge and to contain the human suffering as far as possible," U.N. sources said.

Countries sending medical aid

would be required to ensure that supplies reached the intended recipients instead of the Iraqi army.

Cuba and Yemen, however, were holding out for a resolution that would have allowed India to send a ship loaded with 10 million kilogrammes of food to Iraq and Kuwait. The only exceptions are medical goods and, in humanitarian circumstances, food.

The Philippines also has appealed for permission to send food to about 5,000 Filipinos stranded in Kuwait.

Yemen's ambassador, Moha-

hamad Abdul Aziz Sallam, said the U.S. position "is a very narrow interpretation of humanitarian circumstances."

"We would like to have an interpretation which is more generous, which would allow basic foods to be supplied, especially to the weak in society, an to all civilians," he said. On Aug. 6, four days after Iraq took over Kuwait, the Security Council imposed a trade embargo on Iraq and Kuwait. The only exceptions are medical goods and, in humanitarian circumstances, food.

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## 'Iran, Iraq agree to swap food for oil'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has agreed to sell food and medicine to Iraq for oil and cash, a well-informed source said from Tehran. Such a deal could puncture the U.N. blockade aimed at forcing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Speaking in a telephone interview late Tuesday, the Iranian source told the Associated Press that Tehran has agreed to an Iraqi request to exchange food, medicine and other essentials for oil and cash.

There was no official comment from Tehran or Baghdad on the reported food-for-oil deal. But the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was struck during a visit Sunday by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait last month it has sought a formal settlement to its eight-year war with Iran that ended in a ceasefire in 1988. The two countries exchanged prisoners of war, and Iraq withdrew its troops from Iran and dropped its territorial demands.

The move freed up Iraqi troops along the 1,080-kilometer Iranian border for possible redeployment in the Gulf crisis and was seen as helping Baghdad break out of its isolation.

On Monday Iran said it plans to renew diplomatic relations with Iraq.

The Tehran Times reported in an editorial Wednesday that Iran was "studying the issue of providing food and medicine to Iraq."

The English-language daily, which reflects government think-

ing, said "once Iran finalised its decision and starts shipping food and medicine to Iraq, political circles here believe, Iraq will have an outlet in its present strapped situation."

Iranian officials are convinced that the Muslim Iraqi people should not pay for the mistakes of their government. Iraqi children and women have had no role in the occupation of Kuwait by Bagdad troops," the paper added.

But it made no mention of oil in return.

Facing international isolation and a U.N.-supported economic embargo following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Iraq has been desperately seeking ways of beating the sanctions.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said last month Iran would enforce the sanctions. But before the Aziz visit, Tehran newspapers noted that by supplying food and medicine to Iraq, Iran would not be contravening the sanctions, which permit humanitarian aid.

China last week indicated a desire to send food and medicine to Iraq, saying such shipments would constitute humanitarian aid and would not defy the embargo.

Tehran has condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. But it also opposes the buildup of U.S. and other forces in the Gulf since the invasion.

On Monday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sought to punch

holes in the embargo by offering free oil to developing nations. The United States called that an act of desperation.

Cuba and Romania have struck oil deals with Iraq and companies elsewhere are trying to continue trade with Bagdad, according to a U.S. State Department report. The report said some economically troubled Eastern European countries also are trying to maintain military sales to Baghdad.

Azz, the first senior Iraqi official to visit Iran in 15 years, was accompanied by Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Chalabi.

Iraq had offered to pay Iran in oil for commodities. Iran allowed across the border, the Iranian source said. He added that the Iranians refused to accept full payment in oil, but agreed to take up to 200,000 barrels of refined oil a day.

Well-informed oil industry sources in the region said that although Iran is a major oil exporter itself, it currently has to import about 150,000 barrels of refined oil a day for domestic use.

Iranian refineries, damaged in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, are unable to meet the domestic daily consumption of 750,000 barrels.

The oil industry sources said Iraq's Bazargan oilfields, or a refinery in Basra only 20 kilometers from the border, could be used to supply that oil.

Convoys of trucks, used in the war to transport Iraqi oil to Jordan and Turkey for export and now lying idle, "could easily carry 200,000 barrels of oil a day," one oil expert said.

Arabs are losing credibility be-

## Maksoud says Arab splits, crisis behind resignation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The envoy of the Arab League formally announced Tuesday that he was resigning because he could no longer represent the organization deeply divided over the Gulf crisis and the massive presence of foreign troops.

Colvin Maksoud, representative of the 21-member league, told a news conference that he could not reconcile his own convictions with wide Arab acceptance of U.S. and foreign forces following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He said that he wanted "a breathing space" to permit an Arab solution to what he called an Arab problem, including a significant Arab military force to replace the U.S.-spearheaded military operation, which includes some Arab troops, in Saudi Arabia.

"The wound inflicted on Kuwait should not lead to amputation of part of the Arab body politic," he said, calling the current inter-Arab crisis an "interruption" to be resolved as soon as possible.

Arabs are losing credibility be-

cause of their failure to act, and should seek a "third way" between accepting Iraqi domination and accepting U.S. military opposition, he said.

He said he wanted to see "a preponderant Arab presence" in the Gulf conflict, adding, "we (Arabs) run the risk of being perpetually marginalized" if there is no decisive action.

He said that he was favoured with withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, restoration of the former government of Kuwait, withdrawal of foreign forces and a temporary deployment of Arab troops as reassurance to states in the region. He said he wanted dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait.

But Maksoud did not criticize Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, saying, "I do not want to see Iraq ostracized."

Maksoud, a Lebanese scholar who has represented the league for 11 years at the United Nations and in Washington, said he had sought unsuccessfully to resign in August because of personal fatigue and philosophical differences.



Colvin Maksoud

On Tuesday he reaffirmed his resignation, but said he would stay on at the Arab League's official representative until a new envoy was chosen.

Earlier this month, Chadi Khader of Tunisia, secretary-general of the Arab League, resigned his post, and some diplomats said he was upset about the decision to move the Arab League headquarters to Cairo.

Maksoud said, however, that his own decision had nothing to do with the Cairo move.

## Southern Sudanese seek to end war

KHARTOUM (AP) — Leaders from southern Sudan are trying to set aside their tribal differences and band together to seek ways of ending the civil war that has ravaged their region for seven years.

But the southerners never have been united, even in their opposition of the north, and many believe that the conflict cannot be ended unless the southerners begin cooperating among themselves.

racial conflicts between the Muslim Arabs of the north, who control the government, and the black Christians and animists of the south.

But the southerners never have been united, even in their opposition of the north, and many believe that the conflict cannot be ended unless the southerners begin cooperating among themselves.

More than 100 politicians from the south are involved in the current search for peace. Many were political prisoners until their release this summer.

Pie Yukwan Deng, the chief organizer, is one of three southerners in the 15-member military junta that has ruled Sudan since June 30, 1989.

Deng, a Christian who served with Lagu's rebels in the 1960s, told with Lagu's rebels in the 1960s, told the rally: "We must have our say in the peacemaking in this country. Without southerners coming together, peace cannot be realized in Sudan."

Southerners never have been united, even in the cause of secession. For 17 years, Lagu led the Anyanya movement, whose main support came from relatively minor tribes in the huge Equatoria region. The organization's name denotes the poison of the Gabon viper.

Nearly all the rebels of the current Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are Dinka, the south's main tribe.

## Suspect in scandal implicates Deri

TEL AVIV (R) — A suspect in a corruption scandal rocking Israel said Wednesday that transcripts of an illegal wiretap were delivered to Interior Minister Arye Deri.

It was the latest in a string of allegations that Deri and aides in his ultra-religious Shas Party misused public money and ordered a tap on telephone conversations between police chief Yaakov Hamra and a journalist investigating Deri.

Hamra suspected of transcribing a recording of the calls, told army radio he got his instructions from Shas parliamentary aide Eli Tzuberi, arrested over the affair on Aug. 30.

"Eli Tzuberi asked me for a brown paper envelop and put inside two cassettes, the original and a copy. He put in the transcripts, cutting off my company letterhead.... Hamra told the

radio. "I asked him why and he said: 'We don't need the company name on this.'

"They asked me to wipe the transcript from my computer memory. I wiped it... he took that envelope. His brother Yehuda asked, 'where are you going?' and he said, 'I'm going to Jerusalem to minister Deri to give him the material'." Hamra added.

Hamra said a court order barred him from describing the tape's contents.

Israeli news reports said Deri is suspected of funneling ministry money to charities which were fronts run by his relatives and that he and his brother allegedly received unaccounted-for funds to buy private property.

State comptroller Miriam Ben Porat earlier this year reported that Shas had nominated for government grants charities which

subsequently passed the cash back to party funds.

Davar newspaper said Wednesday that a new report by Ben Porat said the Shas party gave soft loans to its members of parliament to buy private cars.

Davar said the report had been due out this week but publication was delayed at Shas' request.

Deri, 31, denies any knowledge of wrongdoing and says the police investigation was prompted by ethnic and anti-religious bias against Shas, which represents religious Jews of North African origin.

He has criticised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Police Minister Ronny Milo for allegedly letting police leak details of their investigation to reporters.

But Deri has denied rumoured threats to our Shamir's right-wing coalition.

## Levy says Soviet role welcome

(Continued from page 1)

Edward Shevardnadze raised the idea.

But Bush and Baker, eager for Soviet cooperation against Iraq, said subsequently that a conference on the Middle East would be appropriate under certain conditions.

The official concurred. "At the appropriate time, we'd be in favour of it," he said. "It can be helpful."

But, he stressed, the United

## Jordan urges Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

between Iraq and the Ruweisat border post would be shut within 24 hours.

Salameh Hammad, head of the government task force handling the flood of "evacuees," said Shatila I, the biggest and worst of three camps in a neutral zone

## Jordan urges better coordination

(Continued from page 1)

A general briefing on the current situation of the evacuees was presented by Salameh Hammad, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, who chairs a government committee to oversee the relief operations in the country.

N. Vassilios from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also presented a brief on the situation, and Dr. Ali Attia, the U.N. resident coordinator, spoke about U.N. efforts to deal with the crisis.

## Mideast will never be the same

(Continued from page 1)

power structure, making it harder than ever to solve conflicts in Israel and Lebanon.

"Iraq's aggression towards Kuwait destroyed the hard-won solidarity of the Arab camp and diverted the international community from a solution to the problems of Palestine and Lebanon," said Andreotti, whose country currently holds the EC presidency.

In his address to the meeting Prince Hassan expressed hope that the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council would not add further burdens on Jordan's economy and emphasized the importance of coordination among various countries and organizations to aid the evacuees.

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## Mide

## Mennonites condemn use of 'food as a weapon'

By Ica Wahbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The agreement this week between the superpowers that food and medicine could be permitted to enter Iraq "in humanitarian circumstances" was only a reaffirmation of one of the key elements in the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for international sanctions against Baghdad; but the superpower accord could go a long way in weakening the American-led campaign to choke off supplies to Iraq, according to observers.

The U.N. Security Council must define "humanitarian circumstances," but in the meantime some nations and mostly charitable organisations from all over the world had offered their services to people affected by the crisis in the Gulf, namely the Iraqi children threatened with starvation by the tight blockade the United States mustered around Iraq, and the massive number of evacuees that had flooded Jordan since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

True to their creed, the Mennonite Central Committee, a relief and development agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches, has not only condemned the military build-up in the Gulf but also denounced the use of "food as a weapon."

The Mennonites, who have a record of extending food aid to the Vietnamese during the American-led siege of Vietnam in the late 1960s, said "we believe it is wrong to withhold food from people."

"As an agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches, who oppose war and militarism, Mennonite Central Committee deplores the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the enormous build up of military force in the region," said a statement issued by the committee. "We oppose the holding of innocent foreigners against their will in Iraq and Kuwait. We encourage efforts to bring about a negotiated, peaceful resolution of this cri-

sis under U.N. leadership. We support that which makes for peace and for mutual up-building."

"As an organisation responding to human need in the name of Christ, we oppose the inclusion of food and medicines in the embargo against Iraq. We believe Jesus' words, 'Give them to Eat', is a call to share food with the hungry irrespective of race, religion or political persuasion. Much of our work internationally is aimed at improving poor people's access to food. Access to food is a basic human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The withholding of food as a method of warfare is prohibited by international law (Article 54 of Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions, 1977).

"The U.N. resolution applying economic sanctions to Iraq and Kuwait, reflecting international agreement against the use of food as a weapon, permits Iraq and Kuwait to receive 'supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs'. However, the United States and other nations seem prepared to use the withholding of food as a weapon to bring down the government of Iraq. President Bush, when asked whether food should be included in the embargo, replied that he hoped everything would be prevented from entering Iraq. A State Department official said that, while the United States does not intend to starve the people of Iraq, they want to make them tighten their belts over the next few months.

"We believe it is a morally wrong to keep food from hungry people. We call on the international community and the government of the United States to ensure that the people of Iraq and Kuwait are not deprived of adequate food and medical supplies."

In an interview with the Jordan Times Ed Martin, Mennonite Central Committee secretary for the Middle East and South Asia, who came to Jordan

dan to oversee the work of the agency, said that volunteers working for the organisation were providing natural or man-made disaster relief with emphasis on development: agricultural, small industry, education, health, social services.

The agency operates in 50 countries, including Jordan, the occupied Arab territories, Egypt and Lebanon in the Middle East. In Jordan the agency has been working since the 1950s in agreement with the Ministry of Social Development. Support, according to Martin, comes from churches.

In the wake of the Gulf crisis, with the flow of evacuees straining the already meager resources of Jordan, the Mennonite committee, together with the Middle East Council of Churches said the aim of the council was to coordinate activities and assist people in need through various church groups.

"The council has been instrumental in bringing NGOs together to attend to this problem at the border area and move Shazala I Camp evacuees to the Mercy Camp," Chelliah said.

The council works in close cooperation with the higher committee of the Jordanian government and U.N. organisations. Help to the evacuees includes providing tents at camps, organising a centralised kitchen that provides meals through the World Food Programme and medical assistance and sanitation and water facilities through the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

If needed, the council can expand the Mercy Camp to 20,000 capacity. According to Chelliah, a great deal of interest has been obvious among the global community, with three, four organisations stepping forward every day to help.

"We realise that the most critical need is to move these people out fast," Martin said. In the meantime though, the agency is cooperating with international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the purpose to alleviate the misery of the thousands of evacuees stranded in Jordan.

Asked if the agency would breach the embargo and supply food to the Iraqis, Martin said the only way to send food would be through the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which has already been very active, sending two convoys of foodstuffs and medicine to the children of Iraq.

As far as trying to reach the U.S. government to influence policy-makers, Martin said the agency's office in Washington had met with State Department officials and stressed its opposition to withholding food.

Mennonites are against war in all forms. We are pacifists, we do not participate in the military," he asserted.

Daniel Chelliah from the Middle East Council of Churches said the aim of the council was to coordinate activities and assist people in need through various church groups.

"The council has been instrumental in bringing NGOs together to attend to this problem at the border area and move Shazala I Camp evacuees to the Mercy Camp," Chelliah said.

The council works in close cooperation with the higher committee of the Jordanian government and U.N. organisations. Help to the evacuees includes providing tents at camps, organising a centralised kitchen that provides meals through the World Food Programme and medical assistance and sanitation and water facilities through the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

If needed, the council can expand the Mercy Camp to 20,000 capacity. According to Chelliah, a great deal of interest has been obvious among the global community, with three, four organisations stepping forward every day to help.

"We realise that the most critical need is to move these people out fast," Martin said. In the meantime though, the agency is cooperating with international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the purpose to alleviate the misery of the thousands of evacuees stranded in Jordan.

Asked if the agency would breach the embargo and supply food to the Iraqis, Martin said the only way to send food would be through the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which has already been very active, sending two convoys of foodstuffs and medicine to the children of Iraq.

## House extraordinary session ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal decree was issued Wednesday ending the Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary session as of Sept. 15, 1990. The Parliament, which went into recess after the end of the ordinary session on March 27, reconvened by a Royal decree in an extraordinary session on June 2, in accordance with articles one and two of law 82 of the constitution.

The Royal decree on the extraordinary session specified the topics and laws to be debated by the Lower House in addition to such questions as the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, economic policy, prices and unemployment, the country's educational and information policies, issues referred to the Financial Committee of the Lower House and a report by the audit bureau for the years 1987-1988.

On June 16 the Lower House endorsed a law which exempts Jordanian expatriates and their sons from compulsory military service in return for a payment of an amount which was later decided by the Cabinet at \$6,000 per person.

The Lower House, which was elected in November 1989, is scheduled to reconvene in a regular session in October. His Majesty the King delivers a speech from the throne opens the session.

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The emphasis, as in the case of the Mennonite Church, is, according to the council official, on evacuating people from the camps as soon as possible. But, "we are also ready to mobilise international opinion to assist in the evacuation process," said Chelliah.

After the appeal to the international community, "many countries are willing to provide assistance," say the officials at the council, who are now coordinating with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to speed up the evacuation process.

The appeal called on all organisations to listen to the voice of the Iraqi children now, at a time when world leaders are planning a summit conference on children on Sept. 29 at the U.N. headquarters in New York. "The summit will discuss the survival, protection and development of children while certain countries of the world are causing the suffering of the Iraqi children through the indiscriminate embargo on

their milk, food and medication," the appeal said.

In its appeal YWCA said that the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child calls on all nations to take feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

The appeal called upon the world to work for peace in the Middle East and the Gulf, and stop all human rights violations in Palestine, Lebanon and those directed against the Iraqi children. The appeal asked the United Nations to lift the embargo on milk, food and medicine destined for Iraqi children, to stop all violations of human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to find a just solution for the Palestine problem, to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, and to be a fair mediator in the world.

The activities will be carried out through schools and other organisations in cooperation with the Civil Defence Department, Mufi said.

Mufi was speaking after a meeting by NHC-sponsored com-

mittee preparing for the activities, attended by representatives of organisations concerned with children's development.

Queen Noor would like this year's activities to be given special attention and to be related to the present events in Jordan and the Arab region," Mufi said.

She said the Queen attached special importance to the "World Summit on Children," due to open in New York on Sept. 29, and the resolutions on children expected to come out of it, especially those on children of unfortunate areas of the world like Palestine, Lebanon and Sudan.

According to NHC director, the activities in the first week of the coming month will orient children on cultural, health and social matters through seminars to be organised in various parts of the country.

Celebration of the "Arab Child Day" will be observed in Arab countries in response to a decision by the Arab ministers of social affairs, passed in 1982, which said that Oct. 1 of each year should be dedicated to children in the Arab World.

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# Jordan Times

## WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Sept. 13, 1990 **A**

### Israeli Arab youth learn about their Oriental music

By Miriam Jordan  
Reuter

**EIN HASHOFET** — The Oriental music that blares from cassette players in Israel's Arab villages is all made in neighbouring Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Many young Arab Israelis would not even recognise the instruments they are hearing.

"Arabic music in Israel is in a very sad situation," said Taiseer Elias, an internationally known Israeli Arab musician who has helped run the first music camp for the Arab children.

The week-long camp in Ein Hashofet last month introduced 21 talented Arabs, aged 11 to 17, to classical and Arab music for the first time.

"This programme was very

urgent. There's no formal music education at Arab schools," Elias said.

For the 750,000 Arabs in Israel, surrounded by Western culture, learning about their own music is vital to preserving their oriental roots.

Arab classical instruments such as the nai, a bamboo flute, and the kanoun, a string instrument reminiscent of a harp, are disappearing from Israel.

"All these children might know the sound of the kanoun but very few have ever seen the instrument. In a traditional Arabic ensemble, it is always the leader," Elias said.

He said Arab youngsters tended to take up instruments they could learn superficially and then play at social gather-

ings for fast cash — the dorbakke, the Arab drum, and the oud, the Arab flute or violin.

"No one ever took interest in Arab music in Israel," said Rabbi Amram, director-general of the Israeli Society for Excellence Through Education which sponsored the music camp.

The week-long camp at a kibbutz in north Israel was the culmination of almost two years of planning.

The society, an independent non-profit organisation, sponsored a search for talent among youth in Arab communities. Then two girls and 19 boys were chosen from 70 Arab Israeli youths in auditions last year.

"There are many programmes for gifted young Jewish

children but there was no programme in the Arab community... Now maybe one child will get excited and pursue music seriously," Amram told Reuters.

Apart from practice and instruction in Oriental instruments, the curriculum included the principles of improvisation on which Oriental music is based.

Elias, whose formal music training began in university, criticised the Israeli government for not providing music instruction in Arab schools. But he also blamed Arab families.

"If there children want to take up an instrument, they usually encourage them to play an easy instrument so they can start making money at parties," Elias said.

Arab youths who attended the camp were almost all out of dorbakke players who had learnt from friends or relatives.

"If you practise some months, you can play the dorbakke and earn money, so why learn the kanoun which is much more difficult? Why go to conservatory?" he said.

There is only one small Arab music conservatory in Israel — and it is struggling. The six-year-old conservatory in Tarshiha village near the town of Nahariya in the north, serves 10 villages but has only 70 students.

"It's not easy to attract them," said Nassim Dakkar who runs the school. He said it was difficult to spur interest in music when there was no music culture in the Arab

villages.

"If you don't get exposure, you don't think of music," Dakkar said.

Miguel Heistein, a Jewish Israeli classical guitarist whose composition blend Eastern and Western music, said Israeli Arab towns lacked musical ensembles.

"There are Oriental concert series. Parents cannot buy a ticket to the Arab Music Festival. Musical growth depends on being able to hear live Arab music," Heistein suggests why.

"Because men and women are regarding the landscape from contrasting vantage points, the same scene can appear very different to them, and they often have opposite interpretations of the same action."

No one is to blame, the author cautions — it's just that people of different genders generally speak different languages.

Tannen reached that conclusion after studying hundreds of hours of videotaped conversations between men and women, and between boys and girls.

Men and women grow up in different worlds," Tannen said in a recent interview. "It's utterly essential that people accept and understand the differences. Otherwise we end up blaming each other."

Both bosses may be issuing an order, she said, but a male employee likely will interpret a female boss's request as optional, while a female employee will often find her male boss's style unnecessarily peremptory.

"It's like speaking English and French. It's not that one is better than the other," said Barbara Meade, co-owner of the Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington.

"But apparently... he thought I was asking if he'd be willing to do it."

Tannen says this is common. Women often couch a direct order in an interrogative phrase: "Would you mind?" Men usually say simply, "Do it."

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Similarly, she said, "women often feel a relationship is working if you're talking about it. Men feel it's working if you're not talking about it."

"A lot of men feel that a woman's insistence on talking things out is like a dog hanging onto a bone," said Tannen, who teaches in Washington, D.C. "But for women, talk is the glue that holds relationships together."

These are stereotypes, but sociolinguists said they apply more often than not. Since the publication of her book this spring, Tannen said she has received scores of telephone calls and letters from fans of her theory.

"Misunderstood gender differences in one of the biggest causes of divorce," said Howard Markman, who directs the University of Denver's Centre for Marital and Family Studies.

"It's a pervasive problem... but couples who learn how to understand each other can successfully improve their chances of having a happy marriage," he said.

John and Kass Patterson did. The Denver couple took Markman's "premarital

courses" and "the old heavy-handedness."

"There is a certain mistrust that all the men coats still have. They don't want to talk about the past openly and admit they were wrong, for example, by oppressing them," said Tannen, a former Rockwood resident.

Margot Ney, editor of *Education Trade Magazine*, said there was no doubt that teachers had accepted the letter of reform: but many, formed by authoritarian attitudes dating to Nazi and Prussian times, had not embraced its spirit.

"Teachers here are still used to being automatically right. It will take time for them to stop treating teaching like a five-year plan to be fulfilled but rather as a give-and-take with pupils as individuals," she said.

Pupils say they will be keeping a sharp eye on teachers for

## "Misunderstood gender differences — biggest cause for divorce"

By Leslie Dreyfous  
The Associated Press

relationship enhancement programme" before they wed two years ago. Today they are expecting their first child.

"A lot of people wondered why we took the course," said Kass.

"But it really helped us get our marriage off on the right foot."

The Pattersons didn't want to waste time bickering about the banal: Finances, tardiness, who interrupted whom.

"Women are trained throughout their lives on how to talk things out and express feelings," said Kass, 30, a legal secretary. "I am still more the one that pulls things out of John, but since the course he's much more vocal."

Each also better understands what the other is trying to say.

"You become aware of the differences in the way you argue," Kass said. "Sometimes there's no changing the other person, but understanding eases the frustration."

Decoding the ways men and women communicate is not only helpful on the home front, sociolinguists said. Gender-based conflicts can be resolved in the workplace as well.

Take, for instance, the way in which a male employee interpreted an order from Barbara Meade, co-owner of the Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington.

"I wanted him to do some specific tasks having to do with bookkeeping... and though it was understood," Meade recalled.

"But apparently... he thought I was asking if he'd be willing to do it."

Tannen says this is common. Women often couch a direct order in an interrogative phrase: "Would you mind?" Men usually say simply, "Do it."

Both bosses may be issuing an order, she said, but a male employee likely will interpret a female boss's request as optional, while a female employee will often find her male boss's style unnecessarily peremptory.

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"Boy's groups are hierarchical and activities-oriented," Tannen said. "Girls' groups tend to be egalitarian, smaller. They tend to have one best friend and spend a lot of time telling secrets."

When they grow up, women often expect their mates to be that same best friend, which often baffles men more comfortable with locker room towel-snapping than sharing secrets.

Tannen said couples can reach a happy medium with time, patience and compromise. But it will take a lot more to change the fundamental mindsets that separate men and women, researchers said.

"The kinds of language differences, we see, reflect real differences in the way men and women are in the world," said Penny Eckert of the Institute for Research on Learning in Palo Alto, California.

### Thoughts for this week

There is nothing so powerful as the truth, and often nothing so strange — Daniel Webster, U.S. statesman (1782-1852).

In politics, an absurdity is not a handicap — Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor-General (1769-1821).

Repetition does not transform a lie into truth — Franklin Delano Roosevelt, U.S. president (1882-1945).

I never think of the future. It comes soon enough — Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

We must beware of trying to build a society in which nobody counts for anything except a politician or an official — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).



Back in the Himalayas for the summer, comedian Mike Harding deplores the pollution of this pristine environment by tourists and natives.

### Teachers survive revolution in E German schools

By Mark Heurich  
Reuter

**EAST BERLIN** — East German schoolchildren enter a new world of academic freedom when classes resume next week, but their teachers will be essentially the same people who drilled home the Communist line a year ago.

Anxious to keep their jobs and classroom credibility, many teachers took "re-education" courses this summer while more than two million West German textbooks were imported to anchor the curriculum for the 1990-91 school year.

But East German education will be dogged by improvisation and an identity crisis for some time. When East Germany ceases to exist under unification with West Germany on Oct. 3, even the

newest geography and history texts will be out of date.

"Seldom in German education history has such upheaval come into play as that between the start of school in September 1989 and this year," said Education Minister Hans-Joachim Meyer, whose ministry will evaporate on unity day.

"We face extraordinary challenges," he told the country's 200,000 teachers in an article for their weekly newspaper.

For 40 years, East Germany's schools served to breed loyalty to a glorified Socialist state and hostility to a Western world denounced as aggressive, unjust and decadent.

Run for 26 of those years by the wife of Communist leader Erich Honecker, the school system favoured those who supported the party line.

Getting involved in the FDJ (Communist Youth Organisation) was often more important than good grades," recalled Constanze Schreyer, an East Berlin teacher.

Cynicism accumulated through the years, however, as West German television available in most East German homes displayed a lifestyle at odds with the official propaganda.

In late 1989, frustration with decades of political indoctrination and police tyranny exploded in a popular revolution, and the schools that had underpinned the system plunged into chaos.

Rebellious pupils and parents hounded the most authoritarian school principals and teachers from their jobs and subjected the rest to a daily struggle for authority in the classroom.

Teachers began reforming

their methods and message but had little but existing Communist texts to work with. Meanwhile, free elections and market economics were transforming East German society at bewildering speed.

Parliament finally passed an educational reform act as the schools limped into summer recess. The watchwords of reform were decentralisation, intellectual honesty, course variety.

Many teachers, above all old Communists who had taught ideologically-loaded subjects such as history and public affairs, took special "re-education" courses at universities and pedagogical institutes here and in West Germany.

"We could not grasp at first that the system we helped sustain, willingly or pro forma, was no more," said Ursula

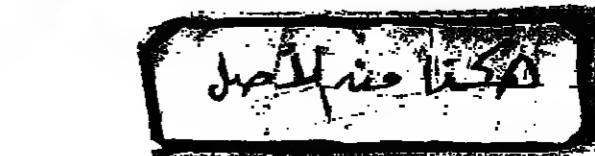
Tacke, 48, a language teacher. "It was a scramble to adjust."

Her school remains named after Communist persecuted by the Nazis and a framed party slogan still hangs in the entrance hall.

Margot Ney, editor of *Educational Trade Magazine*, said there was no doubt that teachers had accepted the letter of reform: but many, formed by authoritarian attitudes dating to Nazi and Prussian times, had not embraced its spirit.

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## Jordan Times

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## Transfer of Arab League: Hasty and harmful

THE decision of 12 Arab states Monday to transfer the Arab League's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo is a divisive move taken at the worst possible time. The fact that nine other Arab League members chose not to be associated with such a decision at this particular time is clear evidence that Monday's decision is flawed on every count. In the final analysis such hasty resolutions stand to deal a death blow to the entire Arab League system at a time when the Arab League is so needed and called upon more than ever to play its natural role in settling inter-Arab crisis.

The Arab Order at the moment is under tremendous strain. The Gulf crisis has divided the Arab Nation into almost equal and opposing camps. In fact the 12 countries that decided to speedup the league's transfer were only aggravating the situation and deepening the divisions. With the Arab Cooperation Council, grouping Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, in limbo, the league could still be a meeting ground for both Arab sides. Of course, there is near consensus in the Arab World that the league has failed to carry out its mandate. But that should not prompt Arabs to kill the league or mutilate it. Rather, what is needed at this critical phase in Arab history is to strengthen the league and allow it to assume the role that it was created for in the first place.

Moving the league's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo now will not strengthen the hands of the Saudi-Syrian axis. It will only push the nine who boycotted Monday's meeting towards more solidarity with Iraq and further polarisation in Arab ranks. Furthermore, the league at the moment has no secretary general and it has lost its able assistant secretary general Clovis Makson who also resigned. Surely, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak cannot hope "to keep the Arab League a home for all Arabs for all time," if the league's session on transferring the headquarters from Tunis to Cairo was only attended by 12 and boycotted by nine. In the power game currently being played in the region by foreign powers, the 12 cannot "hijack" the league and get away with it. From now, and until the Arab League Council session on Sept. 17, there is hope that reason would prevail and differences over the issue be resolved. And if Egypt wants to assume a leading role in the Arab World it should endeavour to reconcile Arabs not divide them.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily on Wednesday described reactions by London and Washington to Iraq's offer of free oil to the poor nations of the Third World as tantamount to a declaration of war between the rich and the poor and between the good and the bad. By denying the poor nations the right to have access to oil given free by Iraq, the United States and Britain are now imposing a siege on many Third World nations as well as Iraq; and these nations have the right to raise their voices and demand compensation for their loss, said the paper. Of course the United States and its allies will reject such demands since they are not willing to pay a single cent out of their pockets and could resort to Arab oil countries to foot the bill should they be forced to appease the poor nations, the paper continued. It said that Third World nations ought to resort to the United Nations to demand that they be compensated for being deprived of free oil should the sanctions encompass them as well as Iraq, the paper added. As Iraq stands out as a nation willing to do good and help the other nations, the U.S.-led Western alliance is being manifested as a real enemy of the poor nations of the world, the paper said. The paper expressed the view that nations of the world will finally rally to support Iraq and justice, and bring defeat to the aggressors.

Al Dastour daily commented on the restoration of relations between Iraq and Iran describing it as a turning point in the region's history. The talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers which coincided with the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Helsinki came in reply to the major strategic plans being concocted by the big powers against the small nations, and in reply to measures by nations hostile to the Arabs and Muslims and to the sanctions and embargo being imposed on this region, the paper said. The paper said that the Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement is designed also to offset our attempts to starve the Arab and Muslim people of Iraq and to subdue the Arab will to colonial whims. The restoration of brotherly ties between the two neighbours in the Gulf has deep dimensions at all levels and is bound to have very beneficial effects on the lives of millions of Arabs and Muslims around the world, the paper continued. Combined together, the Iraqi and Iranian forces can deter any aggression and can abort any conspiracy directed against the Arab and Muslim nations, the paper added. It said that the return of brotherly relations between Baghdad and Tehran can form a strategic balance, countering the massive deployment of forces in the Gulf, and can speed up the eviction of U.S. forces from the holy land.

Saw Al Shabab for its part said Wednesday that despite the efforts being exerted by Jordan and the international organisations to provide relief services to the evacuees, the problem is being aggravated every day, largely due to the presence of huge numbers of the expatriates and in view of the fact that only 10 per cent of their total number have left the country. The paper said that the presence of the evacuees is not only causing a heavy economic pressure on Jordan, but the evacuees have depleted the country's meagre food supplies and involved Jordan's health, security and other departments in around the clock responsibilities. Since the presence of the evacuees in Jordan came as a result of their fear of an outbreak of hostilities due to the presence of invading American forces in the Gulf, the best way to resolve the problem is to end the tension and stop the massing of troops so that these evacuees who failed to leave for home could, if they so wished, go back to Kuwait, the paper suggested. The paper said

## Israeli hidden hand holds the strings of U.S. policies in the Mid-East, again

By George Hawatmeh

WHEN Israel strongly opposed the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia in 1981, and American-Jewish organisations fully mobilised to lobby against the deal, President Ronald Reagan wasted no time in challenging that opposition. "An objective assessment of U.S. national interests must favour" the proposed sale, he told a nationally televised news conference on Oct. 1 of that year. He had earlier warned the Israelis and their lobbyists in Washington that "while we must always take into account the vital interests of our allies, American security interests must remain our internal responsibility. It is not the business of other nations to make American foreign policy."

Reagan's warning, coupled with other statements by administration officials during that AWACS debate, was seen as a concerted campaign by anti-Israel forces in the U.S. against American Jews' "dual loyalty to the United States and Israel" — to the extent that Vice-President George Bush, with an eye to presidential elections sometime in the future, had to seek the erasure of such "insinuations" by Reagan administration officials. In an address to the third biennial Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal on March 15, 1982, Bush said he wanted "to clear the air of some misconceptions." To "accuse American-Jews of being more loyal to Israel than to the United States ... (is) a scurrilous charge," he told the delegates. "It never should have been made."

This campaign alone did not make the Iraqi president order his troops into Kuwait. There were other historical and economic factors involved. What is evident, at least to some Arabs, however, is that the

man had felt already so discredited and beleaguered in Western eyes and by the Israelis that any bold action on his part, as the takeover of Kuwait, was not going to lose him any more credibility and respect abroad. And if this was the case, he now found it the most opportune moment for him to throw all his weight behind all those Arabs who had long wreaked of humiliation and depravity at the hands of the Israelis and their main backer and financier, the United States.

Students of history may recall that it was President Saddam Hussein's threat to strike back at Israel with chemical weapons if the Israelis attacked with nuclear bombs that, more than anything else, raised tension between Washington and Baghdad to an unprecedented level. It was then when Israeli and American officials and media started a feverish campaign against Iraq, trying to discredit Saddam Hussein and portraying him as the "loose tiger" and "new Hitler" that has to be contained. The Bazoft affair, which was a function of that campaign's hysteria, the impounding of Iraqi-bound goods and the series of Israeli and American threats, direct and implicit, against his country and regime all followed Saddam's famous warning to Israel. The "warning" had become a "threat" by now. It had totally been taken out of context by Western media propagandists.

The Reagan years went down in history as the best and most fruitful for Israeli-American relations. And George Bush went on to become U.S. president. But the story of American foreign policy being

own admission, on behalf of all Arabs, including themselves.

There are people in the Arab World, some of whom are statesmen and leading strategists, who genuinely believe that the aim of the campaign which started in the West against Saddam was to force him into exactly the kind of action that he took against Kuwait, where the only way out of it would be his overthrow and/or the destruction of his country as a regional and military power. Such an effort would sap all the power of the United States at least, and preferably the whole world, the Israelis must have argued. They then would be the biggest beneficiary, simply because there would be no Arab power left to force them out of the occupied territories.

Which brings us back to the question of AWACS and Israel's role in pitting Arabs against Americans and vice versa.

Commenting on new plans by the U.S. to sell sophisticated arms to its Arab allies in the Gulf crisis, an Israeli government source was quoted by the Washington Post on Aug. 23 as saying: "To some extent, we have to acknowledge that maybe we were wrong in the past. Maybe Saudi Arabia and the other moderate Arabs need more weapons to defend themselves." The newspaper went on to say: "... For some Israeli officials the (proposed arms) sales are another in a series of worrisome signs of a nascent U.S. strategic alliance with moderate Arabs in the Middle East that excludes Israel."

In 1981, Iraq was busy fighting a life-and-death war with the Iranians, and Saudi Arabia

stood behind Baghdad without reservation then. The common aim was to prevent the spread of Khomeini's Islamic revolution to Arab countries. The AWACS would have helped the two and other Arab Gulf countries fend off danger. That went well with the Americans at the time. But not with the Israelis who wanted to sap all Arab strength through the continuation of war. Having failed at that one, though, Israel tried again by supplying Iran with arms from its own arsenal and later by getting Reagan to send more weapons to Khomeini, in what became to be known as the Iran-contra scandal. The scheme failed, but the Israelis never gave up trying to sabotage improving Iraq-U.S. and Arab-U.S. ties since that period. Up until the current Gulf crisis.

The issue now, having seen what Israel has and could do to influence American decision-making regarding the Arabs, is now to avert war between the Americans and the Iraqis over the crisis. Saddam Hussein has offered unconditional talks with the U.S. over all outstanding problems between them, including President Bush's four objectives. But nobody in his right mind would expect the Iraqi president to budge an inch if the Americans continue to insist on wanting his head as a price for a settlement. True, Saddam Hussein would not take Bush's words for gospel when the latter speaks of a rise in oil prices as a threat to his people's "way of life." Yet the Iraqis would be willing to contemplate a ceiling for the price of oil if they were given leverage over quantities that they can sell. After all Iraqs want to sell their oil, not eat it or keep it underground. Iraq also has expressed readiness to withdraw from Kuwait

if an international conference is held to get the Israelis to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and Syria to leave Lebanon, both being legitimate demands and internationally sanctioned.

The U.S. cannot have its cake and eat it too. It has to see the need for pressuring the Israelis into withdrawing from the occupied territories, especially when Saddam's demand on this point also implies a definite recognition of the state of Israel. Mrs. Thatcher can continue to call Saddam Hussein a "despot" and a "tyrant." For she does not know any better in international politics. But the truth of the matter is that the West can literally turn Saddam's rule into a democracy if its leaders recognise and accept his Ganlist-type nationalism and treat him with respect and understanding.

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Saddam would have no trouble co-existing with other regimes and countries in the region, provided that they do not conspire against and threaten him and his country. True, he will never want to see the Sabahs go back to their old palaces in Kuwait, but who in the world would not accept the removal from power of a hundred or so rich sheikhs in exchange for the prevention of devastating war and bringing about lasting peace and stability in this volatile and chronically unstable region?

"We are looking for some sanity here," said His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan recently. "Will anyone listen?

## LETTERS

### Arab money paid to deprive Arabs of dignity

To the Editor

THE Arab states of the Gulf have recently responded positively to a request made by United States President George Bush to share the cost of the U.S.-led foreign troops presence in the Gulf.

The Saudi response was voiced during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who ended a Gulf tour last week to raise funds for the "Desert shield" military operation spearheaded by the U.S. The approval by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to cover the major part of the \$12 billion bill, needed to finance the expenses of the deployment of foreign troops in the Gulf shows clearly that the Arab states of the Gulf can by no means serve as guardians for Arab wealth, nor as custodians of the holy shrines, which have been desecrated by American troops and their NATO allies.

The financial pledge made by the oil-rich Gulf countries towards the "Desert Shield Operation", is sufficient, if invested in Arab development projects, to eradicate poverty in the Arab world. But unfortunately Arab funds are being disbursed to implement evil plans and colonial conspiracies, aimed at enhancing Arab divisions and maintaining weak Arab entities, unable, even, to defend themselves, let alone the Arab wealth, which is being employed nowadays by a handful of leaders to serve American and Western interests in the region and to strike hard at the only Arab force which can defend Arab causes. It is no secret that the unfair distribution of Arab wealth itself was behind the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, which was prompted by Kuwait's refusal to settle its territorial and financial dispute with Iraq by peaceful means.

Although not in power anymore, Kuwaiti leaders pledged to pay \$5 billion towards the cost of the Desert Shield Operation in the Gulf, ignoring or intentionally overlooking the fact that the American and Western forces didn't come to defend them, but rather to control oil wells and loot Arab wealth.

The Gulf crisis has rearranged many old alliances in the Middle East. But no change is more striking than the emergence of anti-American Syria as the newly cooperative partner of the United States and its moderate Arab allies. In their hostility toward Iraq, say diplomats in Damascus, Assad and the West have found common ground.

"He doesn't like it that Saddam

## Syria shifts boats to Western stream in Gulf crisis

The following article by Susan Sache, "Middle East Crisis: Syria Bending to the West in Gulf," appeared in the Friday Aug. 31, 1990 edition of the *Nassau and Suffolk editions* of *Newsday*:

DAMASCUS — When the United Nations voted economic sanctions against Iraq three weeks ago, Syria's normally taciturn President Hafez Al Assad allowed himself to gloat. "He reminded us that Syria cut off Iraq's oil pipeline back in 1983," recalled a senior Western diplomat here. "He told us, 'Syria already has an economic embargo against Iraq. Now you see what we've been warning you about for the last 10 years.'"

The Gulf crisis has rearranged many old alliances in the Middle East. But no change is more striking than the emergence of anti-American Syria as the newly cooperative partner of the United States and its moderate Arab allies. In their hostility toward Iraq, say diplomats in Damascus, Assad and the West have found common ground.

"He doesn't like it that Saddam

regimes and excommunicated Egypt as a U.S. puppet for its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But in the Gulf crisis Assad has stood squarely behind Egypt and accepted Saudi Arabia's request for the deployment of U.S. troops.

"Assad's reputation as a dangerous sponsor of terrorism is undergoing rehabilitation. Britain severed relations with Syria in 1986, after Syrian diplomats were implicated in the foiled bombing of an El Al passenger plane out of London. But this week seven British men who fled Iraq into Syria were welcomed with enthusiasm and great fanfare.

"They really do want to make a good impression with the Brits," said a Western diplomat who observed the welcoming ceremony.

Assad's apparent warming toward the West doesn't necessarily signal a change of heart or ideology. Diplomats with long experience in the murky currents of Middle East politics say the iron-fisted Syrian leader is acting out a cold pragmatism that only looks like moderation.

"The Syrians are reacting to the actual event," said an East Bloc diplomat, noting that Syria was obliged to take a position in the Gulf conflict because it shares a long border with Iraq. "Their position is based solely on their own interests — that if Saddam Hussein gets away with what he did, the whole system of Arab relations would collapse, and there would be no telling who would be the next target."

Outwardly, Syria appears to be unquestionably Assad territory. Billboard-sized pictures of the balding leader grace every other building and every hotel and office lobby. But like other Arab leaders, Assad is aware that popular opinion favours Saddam Hussein in his confrontation with the rich Kuwaiti emir.

So the regime is hedging its bets. The state-controlled media carefully explain each day that Syria is not fighting a brother Arab country, but is rescuing it from the consequences of its own mistakes — "protecting Iraq against its will," as one newspaper put it. Even Hussein gets fairly evenhanded treatment in the press, where he is mentioned by name and proper title — a big change from the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, when he was vilified daily as a tyrant.

There are signs the public relations campaign might not work. Hussein supporters in eastern Syria, along the Iraqi border, demonstrated in the streets last weekend, according to an Associated Press report. The report said Syrian troops sent into quell the demonstrations killed many pro-

## LETTERS

### Whose peninsula is it?

To the Editor:

AS an American citizen working in the Middle East, and going back home, I would like to say that the dangerous and critical conditions now-a-days in the Arabian Gulf, and the widely open aggression of the United States of America, against Iraq, and the Arab Nation, have raised the following important question: To whom does the Arabian Peninsula belong? Does it really belong to the Arab people of its countries or does it belong to the people of United States?

In case of the latter, the name of that peninsula should be changed to: The American Peninsula of the Middle East.

Therefore, Muslims all over the world, have to be notified, that from now on, the application for a visa, for the purpose of pilgrimage to Mecca, should go through an American consulate. These will be the orders issued by President Hafez Bush.

The following poem, which exactly fits President Saddam Hussein, and the present circumstances, was written by the American writer, Hamlin Garland, who died at the beginning of this century:

Do you fear the wind  
Do you fear the force of the wind  
The slash of the rain?  
Go face them and fight them.  
Be savage again.  
Go hungry and cold like the wolf.  
Go wade like the crane;  
The palms of your hands will thicken.  
The skin of your cheek will tan.  
You'll grow ragged and weary and swarthy.  
But you'll walk like a man.

George Gordon  
25655 Greenfield Dr.  
Laguna Niguel  
CA 92677

Drive carefully!  
Traffic can be hazardous

## Travanti sheds 'the series' on the London stage

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press

LONDON — His fame in the U.S. television show *Hill Street Blues* may have landed Daniel J. Travanti a part on the London stage, but he does not like being reminded of what he calls "that series."

"I will not say its name, and I will not say that character," said Travanti, who played Capt. Frank Furillo in the hit TV police series which ended production in 1987.

But celebrity, he admits, has its rewards: "If I had not had that success, I wouldn't have been asked to do this."

As a result, TV's tony wound precinct captain can be seen nightly at the Ambassadors Theatre sporting an English accent and aristocratic garb in the long-running play *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

Since June 18, he has been acting the Viscomte de Valmont in Christopher Hampton's award-winning tale of sexual cunning among the French haut monde, inspired by Choderlos de Laclos' 1782

The play, now in its sixth year, transferred to Broadway in 1987, and spawned the hit 1988 film *Dangerous Liaisons*, with John Malkovich as Valmont.

"I'm all trussed up, and I'm pouring sweat," Travanti said of the assignment, in which he is contracted through Sept. 27.

"Here I am doing a play that's more demanding than anything I've ever done, and on top of everything else, I'm fighting three-and-a-half minute — sometimes four-minute — fight with a 29-year-old, and I'm 50," he said early in Travanti's first week.

The show is now playing to 75-80 per cent capacity, well above the 54 per cent break-even. Travanti's arrival follows a slack spring during which, Gero said, attendance "was terrible for everybody."

The star, for his part, hopes to continue working on stage. "Now I've got some opportunities, and so what if I'm 50 years-old?" Travanti said. "There's still time. I've got 10 good years to play the great roles."

None of which, he believes, are on television.

"I will not do a crime of the week, or a social disorder of the week, or a disease of the week," said Travanti, "and there is almost nothing else to choose from."

"They talk about an important American mini-series, and I say, 'read my lips. Let me explain something to you. There is no such thing as an important American mini-series."

"There never has been," he said, "and you can quote me on that."

## Bastille Opera besieged

By Clare Pedrick

PARIS — Its unkindest critics have likened it to a hippopotamus sitting in a half-size tub. Others have seen it as yet another monument to the ego of French President Francois Mitterrand, also responsible for the Louvre's glass pyramid and the gargantuan Great Arch at La Defense, in the west of Paris. Rumour has it that the judges in charge of choosing a design from 750 entries managed to mix up the plans and inadvertently awarded the contract to the wrong architect, Uruguayan-born Canadian Carlos Ott.

Besieged by criticism and controversy, the Bastille Opera has gone on to an inauspicious beginning.

The *Liaisons* offer came from the British production's U.S. producer, Frank Gero, who met Travanti 32 years ago in their hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

"I said, 'sure I'd consider it. How long and how much?'" said Travanti, adding with a laugh that he knew the salary was "not going to be much."

There were other enticements.

"Think of the exotic situation," he said. "How many people get asked to go to the West End in an exquisite production? We already know all its strengths. We know there are flaws to speak of."

Travanti's commitment to a film starting Oct. 8 means he cannot stay on in London, but he is considering doing a short tour as Valmont around Europe in 1992.

The casting has had the desired effect at the London box office. Gero said grosses increased by almost 25 per cent in Travanti's first week.

The show is now playing to 75-80 per cent capacity, well above the 54 per cent break-even. Travanti's arrival follows a slack spring during which, Gero said, attendance "was terrible for everybody."

But despite its technology the opera has had trouble getting into gear. Officially inaugurated in July 1989 to mark the bi-centenary of the French Revolution, the first

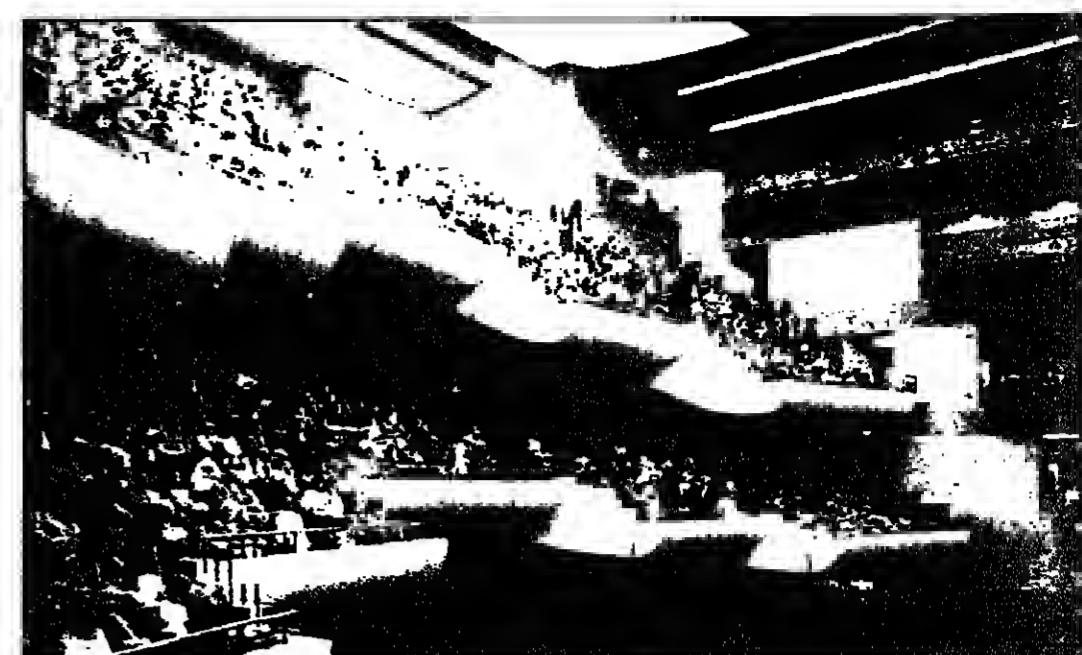
production was not staged until March 1990, and the new opera closed its doors again in May for a seven-month break until November.

The reason for closing so soon after opening is to sort out what Director-General Georges-Francois Hirsch describes as some of the building's "teething problems" and to carry out a full battery of tests on its bewildering array of technological gadgets, some of which have not been behaving as they should.

There have been hiccups with the technology in the gantry and problems with the remote-controlled trolleys designed to shift scenery. There have been difficulties with the synchronisation of the computer-controlled elevators which should, in theory, allow the central stage to be arranged on several levels. The restaurant on the panoramic 7th floor has yet to open because no-one has been able to work out a way of stopping diners who are not ticket-holders from gaining access to the auditorium. The "salle modulable," a separate stage area for more contemporary and experimental works, is still a building site. The stage-set and costume workshops have yet to operate.

In spite of the deluge of criticism the new building has attracted, Hirsch remains proud of the fact that it managed to open on schedule. "I was determined not to delay the opening in order to avoid a loss of credibility," he said, swinging Evinian water from a bottle in his vast high-tech office.

Hirsch has a point: more than once it looked like the



Although it was built to handle 250 different operatic productions a year, the Bastille Opera had to close shortly after opening so a host of problems could be fixed.

directed the *Orchestre de Paris* for 15 years. In January 1989, after announcing a programme which was to open with *Don Giovanni*, Barenboim was summarily dismissed from his post by the opera's new president, Pierre Berge, the business head of the *Yves Saint-Laurent* empire and a long-time friend and supporter of Mitterrand. With Barenboim went a host of artistic and managerial staff.

Chirac badly wanted to scrap the project altogether, but advisors told him it was far too advanced. Endless discussions followed about how the plans could be changed. One idea was to convert the costume and set-design workshop into a hotel complex. Another proposal was to drop the experimental "salle modulable" in the theatre space that can be altered by moving the position of the state at will. In the end, the Socialists came back in after two years and set about changing all the alterations back to the original model.

As his parting shot, days before the right was voted out, Chirac named the new opera's music director as Daniel Barenboim, who had

nothing more than teething problems, but the basis is sound," he said. "It is a building that has the capacity to put on a different production almost every day, with excellent acoustics and an auditorium which has 2,700 seats where everyone can see the stage perfectly, regardless of whether they are sitting in the most expensive or cheapest seat."

"It is going to be a great populist opera house, in the sense that it will not just appeal to the traditional opera-going public," he added. "It will also attract audiences who respond to a different kind of programme. The idea is to draw in people who may never have been to an opera in their lives before."

Seat prices are certainly more affordable than those in many opera houses, ranging from a top rate of \$67 down to \$8. Those in the cheapest seats will never be further than 35 metres (130 feet) from the stage and will not have to pay for their thriftness by being stuck behind a pillar.

The same policy has been pursued by acoustics expert Helmut Muller who has carried out exhaustive studies on scaled models to ensure that the sound quality will remain more or less uniform throughout the auditorium. After the building was finished, Muller ordered one of the balconies to be ripped out in order to improve the evenness of the sound. Choir-master Andrea Giorgi has judged the acoustics as having the perfection of a compact disc.

It is hard not to be impressed by the dimensions of the building. The stage, the largest in the world, can be automatically narrowed or widened. The main pros-

cenium is extended by nine off-stage spaces to the sides and rear, almost as big as the stage itself, allowing the storage of nine different sets.

To the rear is a rehearsal stage identical to the real one, so performers can get a feel of what it will be like on the big night. There are three rehearsal rooms for orchestra, two for ballet, two for chorus and various studios where singers and instrumentalists can practise alone or in groups.

The amphitheatre, a high-tech version of its Greek forerunner, built in white marble, grey granite and black wood, will be used for recitals, exhibitions, lectures, film shows and some dance, though full-scale ballet productions will be staged in the old Garnier Opera. One plan is to stage lunchtime concerts here.

Eventually, the goal is to have the opera house open from 9 a.m. until midnight, with a canopy of auxiliary events and programmes. Alongside the performance of a major work, related "side shows" would be staged.

With a first-year budget of close to \$100 million (\$78 million of which is a state subsidy) the Bastille Opera can afford to be ambitious in its programming. "We have to build up a repertory of the kind of works that are staged in every opera house throughout the world, but we also want to put on more experimental and contemporary works," said Hirsch.

"Another important function of this building will be as a place to train young musicians, technicians, directors, stage designers, and of course singers. We want to bring young singers here so they can work alongside the great established stars" — World News Link.



The future of the Bastille Opera remains cloudy

## Dame Joan Sutherland to retire on home stage

By Robert Woodward

Reuter

SYDNEY — Dame Joan Sutherland, one of the great sopranos of the 20th century, will make her farewell operatic performance her next month — saying goodbye to the stage in the town where she was born 63 years ago.

The Australian diva, idolized as "la stupenda" by the audience at Milan's La Scala, is due to end her career at the Sydney Opera House on Oct. 2 with a performance of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*.

"I feel it's been such a wonderful career I don't want to go on until somebody starts saying 'I do wish the old girl would get off, she's not what she used to be,'" Sutherland said recently.

"I've got to an age where I don't want that routine or that discipline any more. I want to do things that other people count as everyday," she told a radio interviewer.

Sutherland is ranked with Maria Callas as the most important female influence on opera since World War II, enlarging the repertoire of the soprano to include "Coloratura" roles forgotten since the 19th century.

Sutherland made her stage debut in Sydney in 1951. However, Australia before the days of the Sydney Opera House had limited opportuni-

ties for a budding soprano and she left for London.

After studying at the Royal College of Music, Sutherland was hired at £10 (now \$19) a week by the Covent Garden Company. She made her British debut in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in October 1952.

By then she was being coached by conductor Richard Bonynge, who she married in 1954.

"I first heard her voice in 1947 or 1948. I thought it was a wonderful voice but I thought it was a cold voice and not a communicative instrument at that time," Bonynge said in a recent interview.

Bonynge was convinced that Sutherland should veer away from the obvious operatic road towards Wagner and Strauss and develop a coloratura voice full of dramatic, florid flourishes.

Since the turn of the century, coloratura parts had been sung by "canaries," sopranos with light, pure voices but Sutherland was to change this, resurrecting operas such as Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* and *La Fille Du Regiment* with her rich voice.

Sutherland was initially doubtful about the change of style but Bonynge's advice proved the basis of his wife's lasting fame which began on Feb. 17, 1959, the first night

of Lucia Di Lammermoor directed by Italy's Franco Zeffirelli.

After Sutherland came down the stairs in a blood-stained nightgown in Lucia's mad scene, she was hailed a star after a performance dubbed by critics as one of the greatest sensations in operatic history.

Since then she has sung in 48 operas and made more than 80 recordings, appearing on stage with most of the post-war greats including tenor Plácido Domingo and Callas.

"Callas was always very complimentary to me, I quite adored her," Sutherland said. "She was very funny but she was very misguided. She wanted to be in high society and not a communicative instrument at that time," Bonynge said in a recent interview.

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## Musical extravaganza, Texas, celebrates 25th anniversary

By Chip Brown

The Associated Press

PALO DURO CANYON, Texas — Welcome to Texas. Where music accompanies gun-slingin' cowboys and war-painted Indians as they ride on horseback across dusty sagebrush.

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spirit of those who had the grit to settle where many said it was uninhabitable.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green's story is one of farmers against ranchers and their eventual collaboration to bring the railroad and a new town to the 1880 wilderness.

Where roughneck cowboys sing love ballads that could make a stone blush, and frontiersmen carry enough lone star flags to wallpaper the Alamo.

Where covered wagons roll, open barbecue pits smoke and, if you're lucky, a great western sunset paints the sky with pastels rivaling Monet.

For 25 years these scenes have been brought to life in Texas, a musical extravaganza staged at the heels of a 600-foot (183-metre) cliff guarding America's second-largest canyon. With Palo Duro Canyon as its backdrop and the sky as its lighting, Texas is filled with kicker dancing, large chorus numbers and costumes straight out of the musical Oklahoma.

While viewers gawk at the earthy scenery, the musical tells a romantic story of courage, a tribute to the pioneer

spirit here from Tasmania. I would say that was pretty remote."

The musical's officials award a musical triangle to the audience member who has learned to dance. It may be corny but it is absolutely sheer poetry."

Texas was the vision of Margaret Harper, a theatre veteran who read about some of Green's outdoor dramas in a 1960 issue of Reader's Digest. Through her enthusiasm, the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, Inc. commissioned the author to write an outdoor drama for the Lone Star State.

"We are lucky that the public is still eager to come, but luck is a small part of the picture," said Harper. "The main factor is the roots which Texas has — the pride of everyone in the panhandle and the support in every community."

Generous donations and improved marketing have helped the show become one of the state's most popular tourist attractions, Hess said.

The Institute of Outdoor Drama in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, lists Texas as America's best-attended outdoor drama.

## Cryonics — another quest to triumph over death

By Philippa Neave

BERKELEY, California — Thomas Donaldson, a brilliant 45-year-old mathematician has a malignant tumour that is slowly destroying his exceptional brain. Doctors can't help him. Now Donaldson wants to have his head frozen before the tumour does too much damage. He has started what is becoming a much-publicised court case to gain the right to freeze his own brain before he is clinically dead.

He is convinced that by the time scientists have the technology to unfreeze his brain, they will also be able to use one of its cells to grow him a brand new body: a clone of his former self.

Donaldson would not be lonely out there in the Big Chill. There are 23 people in different locations in America who are "in suspension" — a euphemism meaning they are frozen solid at minus 196 degrees Celsius (-330 degrees Fahrenheit). They also have pets to keep them company, several cats and dogs, and more clients are on the way: about 100 people have signed up to be frozen when they die.

If the prospect of paying

\$125,000 to hang upside down wrapped in plastic in what resembles a large thermos flask full of liquid nitrogen doesn't sound too appealing, some people argue that it's better than ending up as dinner for the worms. "Getting frozen when you die means you don't have to rot," says Dr. Paul Segall, a pioneer of the freezing technique known as cryonics (from the ancient Greek "cryo" meaning very, very cold).

The world is enough to send a shudder down the collective spine of the scientific establishment, which largely dismisses cryonics as a crazy dream born from reading too many science fiction stories.

Admits 43-year-old Segall, a Ph.D. in gerontology who was affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, for years: "Cryonics attracts futuristic people." Now a research consultant for Trans Time Inc., an Oakland-based service company that has 15 people and several animals in suspension. Segall acquired some fame by reportedly freezing his dog and bringing it back to life. Named Miles after the character in Woody Allen's film *The Sleeper*, where a man wakes up after

being frozen for 200 years, Segall's little beagle seems as healthy as ever, unaware of the fame that his reported trip "to the other side" brought him.

Some animals do it naturally, Segall points out: "There are certain frogs that spend the entire winter in a partly frozen state; as the weather gets colder, their bodies start producing massive quantities of glycerol and glucose which act as an anti-freeze. They can survive months at temperatures as low as -4 or -6 degrees Centigrade."

The process used to freeze humans that was performed on the unsuspecting Miles is not for the squeamish. First Segall and a team of nine scientists put the dog to sleep. They drained the blood from his entire body. Then they injected a blood substitute, a simple chemical mixture that acts as anti-freeze, and gradually cooled the animal down with packs of ice, bringing the body temperature close to freezing point. No more heart beat or brain activity. Then says Segall, 79 minutes later, the team gradually warmed him up, put his blood back in and Miles woke up, a little groggy from the anaesthetic

but alive.

The experiment was a breakthrough for cryonics buffs and a result of years of research by Segall to develop a blood substitute that can protect cells from frost damage. Considering that the human body is 60 to 80 per cent water, and since water expands when it freezes, damage caused to the cells when warmup occurs can be devastating. Cryonic science has not progressed enough to prevent this in the bodies currently in suspension, but people hope that the knowledge will come.

The other question is that since it is illegal to freeze someone before he is clinically dead, chances are that even if he or she can be brought back, they are going to be in a pretty sorry state. "You ask what's the point of bringing back an 85-year-old sick man?" continues Segall. "Think of an old 1950s Chevrolet you might like: You get a new engine, new transmission and just dump it in. Then it's crowded down here, but there's plenty of room up there," Segall says, explaining that clusters of capsules could be sent into space. "It will be the same with people."

What do you do for spare parts? "Grow them," says Segall. He dismisses visions of

neat rows of kidneys growing like aubergines in the field. "We will develop a body clone," he explains. "Taking the nucleus of a cell from the body, we will grow a human body to adult size and use the organs for transplant." Scientists can already grow almost limitless quantities of a person's skin, he notes, predicting that it won't be much more than 10 years before scientists start trying to grow human clones.

Segall is not worried that the world would become overcrowded if cryonics really catch on, because not many people will be able to afford it: "It's expensive. A complete make-over would cost up to \$100,000. But people can start saving up for a clone of themselves."

A capsule some 7 feet by 10 feet holds 10 people. So far Trans Time is storing its frozen clients in a warehouse in an industrial part of Oakland. It's crowded down here, but there's plenty of room up there," Segall says, explaining that clusters of capsules could be sent into space. "It will be the same with people."

By selling the patent of his blood substitute to a pharmaceutical company, Segall has raised over \$5 million worth of equity. But he will



Paul Segall, an expert in cryonics, says he froze his dog, Miles, and brought him back to life.

need more to forge ahead: An experiment like that performed on Miles costs about \$12,000.

Cryonics may seem just another quest by humans to

triumph over death. True, Segall says, "but there's a new twist to this. This time we've got what no other civilisation ever had: science" — World News Link.

## Babies start learning about language before birth — studies

By Malcolm Ritter  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Babies start learning their future language even before they are born, a researcher says.

Studies have discovered that, beginning in the womb, babies recognise speech as a special sound and can distinguish between spoken passages, psychology Professor Anthony Decasper said recently.

In one study, 24 newborns were exposed to the sound of a heartbeat and of a woman speaking. They were able to choose which ear would prefer to hear which sound by varying the intensity in which they sucked a pacifier.

Babies chose to hear speech in the right ear and the heartbeat in the left ear, indicating they were already processing speech differently from other sound, Decasper said.

"What it shows is, at birth, there is some 'knowledge' of the language of the culture," he said.

Decasper, a psychology professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association earlier this month.

It is not clear whether the experience of hearing the mother's voice in the womb contributes to the development of the right-ear preference, he said.

## Butter clogs warehouses as Americans shun fat, cholesterol

By Lorrie Grant  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Americans' growing aversion to fat and cholesterol is depositing mountains of unwanted butter at government warehouses across the country.

Practices are also changing in the baking industry, where more and more firms are shunning butter in order to produce low-fat and cholesterol-free products.

"A lot of people are aware consumers are seeking low-fat bakery food and are making a concerted effort to provide that product," said Peter Hostile of the industry group Retail Bakers of America.

Storage of the unwanted butter is the task of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

which supports milk producers by buying dairy products that cannot be sold commercially.

While federal stocks of "healthful" dairy products such as low-fat milk have fallen, a stubborn butter surplus remains.

As of early July, 178 million kilogrammes of it were stockpiled, the Agriculture Department says.

Some 18 million kilogrammes of that total will be used in schools and other government programmes. The rest will have to be stored until falling prices or other incentives create a market for it.

"It is a legislative mandate that the Agriculture Department

ter, non-fat dry milk and cheese," said department dairy analyst Charles Shaw.

The food manufacturing sector, including bakeries, takes up roughly 39 per cent of annual butter sales, according to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Restaurants and cafeterias absorb about 35 per cent, leaving individual consumers to account for the rest.

But demand for the traditional rich spread has been melting away because of public concerns about cholesterol and fat, a correspondingly greater use of margarine and other substitutes, and higher prices.

Some bakeries say that while certain recipes work better with butter, health concerns compel the use of substitutes.

"We are using more margarine than butter," said Robert Artuso, who has run a small family bakery in New York for 25 years and made the margarine switch only recently.

"It's cheaper, easier to work with and doesn't affect the finished product," Artuso said.

Entenmann's Inc., owned by Philip Morris's Kraft General Foods Unit, has unveiled an entire butter-free line of pastries which sell alongside its original buttered line.

Continental Baking Co., maker of Wonder Bread and the Hostess Line of products, used to use animal fat —

rather than butter — but shifted two years ago to vegetable oil in order to make a cholesterol-free product.

But Sara Lee Corp., a major maker of frozen baked goods, has stayed with butter.

"There have been some pressures but we have not pulled any butter out of our formulation," a spokesman said.

The government knows that as long as customers want lower fat it cannot fully encourage greater use of butter. But it does believe it can encourage some additional use by changing the price it pays the butter producers.

"The Agriculture Department has been trying to adjust the value of butter," said Shaw. "But if you lower the

value of the fat component of whole milk, then you have to make an offsetting increase in the non-fat component so that the farmer is still getting the full price of the milk.

"As we have lowered the butter price to 98.25 cents from \$1.0925 (a pound), we had to also raise the price of non-fat dry milk to 85 cents from 79 cents."

While farmers tinker with cows' diets to try to make milk with a lower fat content, industry analysts say the government has to establish support prices closer to what the market wants.

Get the price low enough, they say, and it may win some bakers and shoppers back to butter despite health concerns.

## Chinese doctors help infertile couples

By Janet Snyder  
Reuter

PEKIN — The vast majority of Chinese may face stiff penalties if they exceed their limit of one child per family, but there is help for those who can't have even that one child.

"There is no contradiction between China's birth control policy and our trying to help women have babies," said Dr. Xia Wenzuan, a 56-year-old gynaecologist who runs Peking's largest infertility clinic.

They chose the familiar story, Decasper said.

"We're talking about recognition of linguistically relevant speech sounds," he said. "The implication is that fetuses heard, perceived, listened and learned about something about the acoustic structure of American English," he said.

"Infertility is a disease, and its our duty to treat disease."

The woman, six months pregnant, said she had suffered two miscarriages and had nearly lost hope of having a child.

"My husband and I were so sad. We were trying to have a baby for five years and it looked impossible," she said.

Xia said most of her patients came to her after one or two years of trying without success to have a child.

China's birth control policy generally dictates one child per couple. Exceptions are made for minorities and for rural households that can afford to have more than one child.

Childlessness bears a particular stigma in Chinese society. Naging mothers-in-law have been known to encourage sons to divorce a wife who fails to produce an heir.

"Rarely do they stop to think that maybe it's the man

who is sterile," said one housewife. Xia said her clinic tests sperm counts and other data to ascertain whether this is the case.

She displayed a photograph album full of pictures of babies she has helped bring into the world following fertility treatment. She said about 30 to 40 per cent of the women she treats are able to give birth.

China's birth control policy generally dictates one child per couple. Exceptions are made for minorities and for rural households that can afford to have more than one child.

But the government acknowledges the right of each couple to have that one pre-scribed child and Xia's clinic enjoys full political support, she said.

The Communist government has made a major reversal on its family planning policy since coming to power in

1949. The late Chairman Mao Tsetung told the Chinese to have as many children as possible to build the nation.

But after his death, Chinese authorities, alarmed by the country's population explosion, reversed direction and called on couples to limit their offspring to one.

Couples who try to skirt the rules and have more than their quota are heavily fined.

But the government acknowledges the right of each couple to have that one pre-scribed child and Xia's clinic enjoys full political support, she said.

In a city where the average wage is about \$37 a month, the bills for fertility treatment are astronomical.

One treatment involves sending an electric current through gauze bags of herbs placed on the patient's stomach above the ovaries.

Although Chinese traditionally are loath to break the skin in their medical treatment, operations to correct infertility are done — but only as a last resort, Xia said.

"When a woman's fallopian tubes are blocked, we try to treat it," said Xia. "If her one child dies and she's had a tubal ligation, we try to reverse it."

Reconstruction of the fallopian tubes is a delicate operation requiring microsurgery, and the success rate is known to be low.

## U.S. adolescents risking harm to build muscles with steroids

By Deborah Mese  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 250,000 adolescents, mostly boys, have used steroids to build muscles and enhance athletic performance at the risk of physical and psychological harm, U.S. health officials said Friday.

Though non-medical use of anabolic steroids is illegal, the number of teenagers using them is believed to be growing, according to a report by the Department of Health and Human Services inspector general.

The report recommended the department develop a national educational programme to increase awareness of the hazards of steroid use.

"I am very concerned that

some adults who are charged with our young people's welfare might be passively accepting or even tacitly approving the use of these dangerous drugs," Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said in a statement.

Sullivan said an interagency task force has been formed to look into new approaches to stemming the abuse of steroids. Also, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting and educational campaign targeted at young athletes and their coaches, he said, and the department is launching a new public affairs campaign on the issue.

In the best-known case of steroid use by an athlete, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson lost his gold medal in the

1988 Olympics in Seoul when he tested positive. He was disqualified and barred from competing for two years.

Also during those Olympic Games, several weightlifters from various countries tested positive for steroids and were sent home.

Professional sports is also dealing with the problem.

Professional sports is also dealing with the problem. This year the National Football League began an anti-steroid programme under which players can be suspended for use of the drugs. The experts said adolescents whose bodies are still developing are at special risk for some adverse effects of steroid use, including stunted growth, mood changes and long-term dependence.

The report issued Friday by Inspector General Richard Kusserow estimated that 262,000 students in grades 7 through 12 used or have used steroids, based on a 1989 survey by the National Institute

on Drug Abuse.

The number of users appears to be increasing, the report said, basing its conclusion on interviews with 30 experts and 72 current or former steroid users.

More than half of the users said they had started using steroids by age 16, and 85 per cent said they had started by age 17. All but one said they used injectable steroids.

The experts said adolescents whose bodies are still developing are at special risk for some adverse effects of steroid use, including stunted growth, mood changes and long-term dependence.

The experts also said steroid use exhibit addictive behaviour, although it has not been proven that use of these drugs is habit-forming.

Klein responded that the scanning proton microscope

was particularly good at finding heavy metals.

Thus was born a partnership.

Since that exchange, Melbourne University's Marian Cholewa has analysed five heteropolymer (HPA) compounds, variations of drugs being examined for their prospects in battling AIDS, for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

In June, the World Health Organisation said there were 266,098 AIDS cases reported in over 150 countries. Half of the victims were in the United States. The second highest number was in Zaire, following by Brazil.

A half million people are believed to have contracted AIDS. A million people are thought to have been affected by AIDS-related symptoms, and 5 million to 10 million have been exposed to and AIDS virus.

## Experts to study effect of anti-AIDS drug

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian scientists say the use of a super microscope will allow researchers



## IOC to discuss possible Asian Games ban on Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Olympic leaders are expected to discuss Thursday a possible Asian Games ban on Iraq despite official reluctance to be drawn into the row.

The Executive Committee of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has recommended that Iraq be banned from this month's games in Peking and expelled from the OCA because of its invasion of Kuwait.

The 38-member OCA will vote on the recommendation in Peking on Sept. 20, two days before the start of the games. A dozen Arab countries have threatened a boycott if Iraq is allowed to compete.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch told reporters Wednesday that the issue would be discussed at a four-day IOC Executive Board meeting in Tokyo starting Thursday.

He added: "We have to study this problem, but I think it is an Asian problem that must be solved by the Asian Olympic Committees. It's a very delicate situation."

The IOC has no official jurisdiction over the Asian Games and IOC Vice President Dick Pound of Canada said: "We let them raise the (Olympic) flag at the party, but it's still their party."

Samaranch met Kuwaiti National Olympic Committee (NOC) President Sheikh Ahmad Fahd Al Sabah Tuesday soon after arriving in Tokyo for the executive board meeting and next week's full IOC session.

Ahmad, 30, was appointed Kuwaiti committee president earlier this month to replace his father, Sheikh Fahd, the emir's younger brother who was shot dead by Iraqi forces during last

month's invasion. Fahd was also OCA president and an IOC member.

The OCA is scheduled to meet in Peking on Sept. 19 to select an acting president to replace Fahd.

The IOC is expected to discuss the predicament of the Kuwaiti committee which is in exile in Saudi Arabia.

Under the OCA executive committee recommendation, any expulsion of Iraq would remain in force until the Kuwaiti committee was able to function normally.

Ahmad will seek support for Kuwait among IOC members. He said after his talks with Samaranch: "This is one of the most important meetings in sports in the world."

He added that he was optimistic that the OCA would ban Iraq from competing in the Asian Games.

### Commission to discuss South Africa

Meanwhile the next step towards the return of South Africa to the Olympic movement will also be discussed at the IOC's Apartheid Commission meeting Thursday.

The changing political climate in South Africa and progress towards forming racially integrated sports bodies have prompted IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to be optimistic about South Africa's return to the Olympic fold in time for the 1996 games.

The republic was expelled by the IOC in 1970 because of its apartheid policies and has since been virtually isolated from the international sports arena.

But despite the optimism, African sports leaders stressed Wednesday further progress was necessary before South Africa's re-admission to the Olympics.

## Louisiana Superdome seeks to be first indoor World Cup site

NEW YORK (AP) — The Louisiana Superdome's general manager has said the stadium would bid to become the first indoor site ever for soccer's World Cup.

Bob Johnson said the 70,000-seat stadium in New Orleans, host to four Super Bowls — the U.S. Pro Football Championship — and two NCAA final fours — the U.S. College Basketball Championship — probably would bid for either the final, the opening game or a semifinal in addition to first-round matches.

The tournament, the first to be played in the United States, will be staged in eight to 12 cities in June and July 1994. Cities will be selected next year by FIFA soccer's world governing body.

"At this point our intentions are to bid," Johnson said Tuesday before meeting with officials of the New Orleans Sports Foundation to discuss the group's proposal. He said the problem of installing grass over the artificial turf could be overcome.

"They've done indoor football with natural grass," he said.

"But that's one night. Here you might get a preliminary-round game and then you lay idle to the semifinal games. The question is how do you maintain the grass without natural sun and being able to water extensively?"

Ross Berlin, vice president of venues for the World Cup '94 organizing committee, said the Astrodome in Houston also is considering a bid. But that stadium is home to Major League Baseball's Houston Astros and it is considered unlikely the team would vacate the building long enough to allow World Cup games.

The Superdome, opened in August 1975, originally did not intend to bid for the World Cup. But the organizing committee decided in June that it would enter proposals from domed stadia.

"They need to cross the bridge of getting natural grass studied," Berlin said, "whether or not it

would take, whether or not it would be feasible, whether it would withstand the rigors of international games."

The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami are considered the other top candidates for the opening game and the final, but Joe Robbie probably would not be available if Miami is awarded one of the two Major League Baseball expansion franchises that will start play in 1993.

Other proposed cities are Ann Arbor, Michigan; Annapolis, Maryland; Atlanta; Boston; Buffalo, New York; Charlotte, North Carolina; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas; Kansas City, Missouri; Knoxville, Tennessee; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; New Haven, Connecticut; Orlando, Florida; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Portland, Oregon; Princeton, New Jersey; Provo, Utah; Raleigh, North Carolina; Blaine, Minnesota; Seattle; Stanford, California; Tampa, Florida; and Washington.

Meanwhile Briton Dennis Andries will make the first defense of his newly-regained World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight crown against Argentina's Sergio Daniel Merani in London next month, it was announced Wednesday.

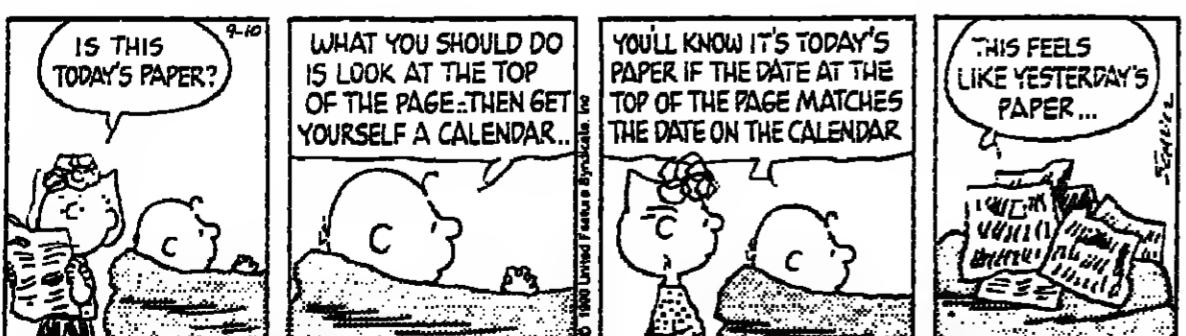
### Mutt'n'Jeff



### Andy Capp



### Peanuts



## Mendoza wins WBA title

MIAMI (AP) — Luis Mendoza of Colombia stopped countryman Ruben Palacios in the third round Tuesday to win the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior featherweight title.

Mendoza landed a solid right to Palacios' head early in the third round to set up his win in the 122-pound division. Palacios beat referee Eddie Eckert's count, but was unable to defend himself. Mendoza pursued his opponent to the ropes, landing unchallenged lefts and rights.

Eckert eventually stopped the fight 51 seconds into the round.

The title bout was the second between the WBA's top two contenders in the weight class in less than four months. Mendoza and Palacios fought to a 12-round draw on May 25 in Colombia, forcing the rematch at Miami's Jai-Alai Fronton.

"I came well prepared for this fight and knew what to expect from him," Mendoza said of Palacios' attacking style. "I needed my jab to keep him away."

Mendoza entered the bout as the WBA's no. 1 contender and improved his record to 27-2 with 16 knockouts.

Palacios is now 39-2.

### Vazquez wins IBF title

In Inglewood, California, Wilfredo Vazquez came on strong in the late rounds and stopped defending champion Joe Orewa in the 12th round Monday night to win the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) junior 122-pound (55.3-kilogramme) championship.

Vazquez, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, is the former World Boxing Association (WBA) hantamweight champion.

Apart from being stunned by a left hook in the fourth round, Orewa began trading punches with Vazquez, and was knocked down by a right and took the mandatory eight count.

Vazquez hurt Orewa early in the 11th, and nearly finished him midway through the round. Vazquez knocked down Orewa early in the 12th and then put him on his back. Orewa was up at the count of eight, but referee Chuck Hassett stopped the fight.

Vazquez led by scores of 107-101 and 105-103 at the end of 11, but the third judge had it 106-102 for Orewa.

Both weighed 122 pounds (55.3 kilograms). Vazquez improved to 29-6-3, 23 by knockout. Orewa fell to 18-5, 12 by knockout.

Meanwhile Briton Dennis Andries will make the first defense of his newly-regained World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight crown against Argentina's Sergio Daniel Merani in London next month, it was announced Wednesday.

## 1996 Olympic bidders to face moment of truth

TOKYO (R) — Six cities bidding for the 1996 Olympics face their moment of truth in Tokyo.

In the absence of a clear-cut favorite, the rival candidates will be wheeling and dealing up to the last minute to drum up votes before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) holds its secret ballot next Tuesday.

"Let the bargaining begin," will be the collective cry at high-powered delegations from Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto jostle for the glittering prize of the centenary Olympics.

The 1996 games will mark the 100th anniversary of the first modern olympics and the historic vote is expected to bring up to 3,000 city delegates, VIPs, IOC members and media personnel flocking to Tokyo.

Tradition and sentiment favour Athens, where the games were born 776 BC and reborn in 1986. But the Olympics are now a billion-dollar industry and sentiment alone may not be enough to satisfy some of the hardened members of the IOC.

Problems of pollution, transport and communications, and a shortage of money could sway a majority of the 88 IOC members away from the Greek capital.

However, the other candidates know that their own fortunes will depend to some degree on the impression made by the Athens delegation in the final run-up to the vote.

If Athens falters, Atlanta, Melbourne and Toronto are expected to emerge from the pack as front runners. Manchester is generally regarded a long shot with Belgrade filling the role of rank outsider.

The vote will be the culmination of several years' intensive lobbying by some cities, which has prompted concern within the IOC at mounting campaign costs.

According to unofficial estimates, the six cities have spent a total of \$100 million on their bids and the IOC is considering rule changes to curb excessive promotional spending.

The vote for 1996 games will be the high point of a week of OIC

meeting which could eventually lead to significant changes in the Olympic status quo.

The projected return of South Africa to the Olympic movement will be high on the agenda following the optimism expressed by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch last week that the republic would probably be readmitted in time for the 1996 games in Barcelona.

The IOC is also seeking to keep pace with political developments in Eastern Europe and is expected to examine the future of sports bodies in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which are seeking to regain independence from the Soviet Union.

National Olympic committees in the Baltic countries were disbanded when the three republics were incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

The unification of East and West Germany next month and the merging of the two national Olympic committees will also come under the microscope, particularly in view of Berlin's prospective bid for the 2000 Olympics.

One difficult area which could require all Samaranch's noted powers of diplomacy could be Poland's ambitions to host the 2000 Olympics.

The Chinese capital has indicated that it may announce a bid after staging the Asian Games later this month, although such a move would eventually present the IOC with a difficult choice between two major political imperatives.

The IOC is expected to pay tribute to one of its most popular members, Sheikh Fahd Al Sabah, who was killed in fighting near the palace of his brother, the emir of Kuwait, during the Iraqi invasion last month.

Fahd, 45, an IOC member for nine years, was also president of the Olympic Council of Asia.

The six-day IOC programme will get under way with a three-day meeting of the executive board starting Friday.

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

#### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Organise your practical interests today and be in touch with any person who has control over an aspect of your future. Continue to avoid one who hasn't your best interests at heart.

#### ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) Steer clear of taking any liberties and making any waves where those in power are concerned; while tonight you can have a quiet evening.

#### TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) Squelch that desire to be off during the daytime to some new and untried appeals and later you can quietly plan a successful future.

#### GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) Not the day to question any statements or accounts but put off any business decisions until a better time and tonight clarify your intimate aims.

#### MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) Associate can limit you during the daytime so don't yield to such persuasions while in the evening you can go out on the town and have fun.

#### LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) Work can be a pain in the neck today but determine to do your best and you do better than you think; later seek out some new acquaintance of character.

#### VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) Control that urge to play today when there is a serious project to

be done while at night you can better savvy business and financial opportunities.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Don't respond to some criticism or adverse condition at your home during the day but tonight you can get off with worldly persons and accomplish much.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 22) Despite the urge to dash around town or countryside for whatever purpose you gain most headway by strict attention to whether labour faces you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Money and business matters can be a tangle and you should await a better day before attending them while in the evening join congenials at recreation.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your judgement and your intentions are both way off base during the daytime so don't rely upon them while tonight you can have a very happy time at home.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Any secret working of angles today could be disastrous and instead you would be wise to draw up and map out a plan for greater outside productivity.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) An older or limiting contact can make life difficult day unless you absent yourself from the person; instead get advice from moneyed man.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

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### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

#### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You will find yourself alert, alive and active as this work week draws to a close and Uranus goes direct, opening up new opportunities for logical communication with others.

#### ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) Now you find that you can communicate with those far and near with very good results and get bright people to go along with your projects.

#### TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) A confidential advisor of much experience can now let you in on the best means by which you can have more of the good things of everyday living.

#### GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) Consider well the most important friendships you have

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## Iraq misses \$2.8m loan repayment

LONDON (R) — Iraq failed to make a \$2.8 million loan repayment to the World Bank in August and said it could not transfer the money until the Gulf crisis was over, a World Bank official said Tuesday. The payment had been caught up in the international freeze on Iraqi funds imposed after Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait and the World Bank would have to set aside loan loss reserves if no money was received by Dec. 15, he said. The funds, part of repayment due on total debt to the bank of \$47 million dating back as far as the 1960s, were, however, already 60 days overdue in August when Baghdad said they could not be paid "until the current crisis is over."

## Albania announces big wage rises

VIENNA (R) — Communist Albania has announced wage rises of up to 20 per cent to help boost production and its stagnating economy, Europe's poorest. The state news agency ATA said Wednesday measures approved by the council of ministers would raise average monthly pay to about 570 leks (\$57) from \$53 (\$2.3) and ensure a minimum monthly income of 450 leks (\$45). The rises, of up to 20 per cent for those on the lowest incomes, apply to 642,000 workers in industry, agriculture and other sectors of the economy and take effect Oct. 1. Albania has a population of just over three million. Albania, Europe's last Orthodox Communist state, has begun cautious political and economic reforms this year, including a relaxation of centralised economic controls and limited foreign investment. President Ramiz Alia has said economic change will take priority in the reform process, reflecting what diplomats say is his concern over discontent about low living standards.

## Romania wants compensation

BUCHAREST (AP) — A high-ranking government official has said Romania should be compensated for losses incurred during the Gulf crisis. Deputy Foreign Minister Romulus Neagu told the state news agency Rompress that Romania will lose \$2.9 billion because of its adherence to the U.N. embargo of Iraq. He said Romania has lost \$1.2 billion in suspended contracts with Iraq and Iraq has cut off payments on its \$1.7 billion debt to Romania. Neagu said the losses "directly affect more than 100,000 (Romanian) workers whose incomes are now in jeopardy."

## Belgian minister assails oil companies

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Budget Minister Hugo Schiltz has accused oil companies of taking advantage of the Gulf crisis to boost their profits by slowing deliveries of crude oil cargoes. "Deliveries are being deliberately delayed in the hope of makingurious profits at the expense of the populace and the public treasury," Schiltz said in an interview in the Echo De La Bourse daily newspaper. Oil companies were trying to exaggerate delays in crude oil transport despite the fact that production and supplies had remained virtually normal since the United Nations put an embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, he said. The minister called for concerted European action to put an end to such practices. There was no immediate comment from the Belgian oil federation. According to European Community statistics 8.6 per cent of Belgium's oil came from Iraq in 1989, and none from Kuwait.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, September 12, 1990. Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	474.6	477.4
U.S. dollar	658.0	662.0	Dutch guilder	367.4	369.6
Pound Sterling	1222.8	1230.1	Swedish crown	113.1	113.8
Deutschmark	414.0	416.5	Italian lira (for 100)	53.6	53.9
Swiss franc	496.7	499.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	201.2	202.4
French franc	123.7	124.4			

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8615/25	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1609/19	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks
1.5833/40		Dutch guilders	Dutch guilders
1.7847/57		Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1.3180/90		French francs	Italian lire
32.61/66		Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
5.3040/90		Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
1181/1182		Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
137.80/90			
5.7950/8000			
6.1000/50			
6.0400/50			
One ounce of gold	380.35/380.85		

## TO DAY AT

Cinema Tel: 677420  
CONCORDE  
Dured Lahham  
Madeleine Taber  
In  
1-KAFROUN  
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.  
2-SENIOR WEEK  
5:15, p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571  
93306111  
Amitabh Bachhan  
In  
GIANT  
REVENGE  
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

## Top banker belittles oil shock fears

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Western industrial nations are better placed to deal with the sharp jump in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis than they were in the 1970s, the Bank of France governor has said.

Jacques de Larosiere said tight monetary policies pursued by Western central banks in the past three years had helped moderate money supply growth and dampen inflation, and commodity prices had been flat except for oil.

"All those are positive factors which make it easier for our industrial countries to absorb in a non-inflationary way the consequences of this situation," he told reporters.

De Larosiere said the current situation was much healthier than in the 1973 and 1979 oil shocks, when inflation had been accelerating and money supply expanding before oil prices

Echoing European Community finance ministers who met in Rome Saturday, central bankers agreed monetary policy should not be relaxed to offset the impact of soaring oil prices, a senior Western official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said there was bound to be a transfer of wealth from the oil consuming nations to the oil producers, made richer by higher oil revenues.

EC finance ministers made clear at the weekend that monetary policy would have to remain restrictive, oil price rises would be passed on directly to consumers, and wage restraint was vital to avoid a wave of unemployment.

"We've learned some hard lessons from the past. I think we'll spend it wisely," said Bank Duta economist Anwar Nasution.

The government is not so sure.

Inflation is already running at an annual rate of more than seven per cent so far this year compared to five per cent target.

"We're walking a tightrope. By

building roads, port and so on, you spend more money which will increase inflation," said the official, who noted also the need to increase employment.

## Oil price jump brings dilemma to Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — The leap in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis is a welcome windfall for Indonesia, the only Asian member of OPEC, but the problem is how to spend the money.

"With the additional oil

money, we will be able to in-

crease spending but we must es-

ure it won't create inflationary

pressures," a senior government

official, who spoke on condition

of anonymity, told Reuters.

The government's budget for

the current fiscal year to next

March is based on a barrel of oil

fetching \$16.50, nearly \$10 less

than the current market price.

At current production in In-

onesia, every extra dollar in the

world oil price is worth about

\$500 million a year.

"The government has no

choice but to improve the infra-

structure," said Hariojo Wigjowijoto, who heads private con-

sultant P.T. Aspecindo Kreasi.

He pointed to the country's

inadequate capacity to export

gains from oil and gas exports.

He cautioned against any

spending spree on projects before

proper development programmes

can be established.

"Also you can't always speed

things up just with more financing," he pointed out.

He suggested the administra-

tive bottlenecks which plague the

country's projects could be best

reduced by making it financially

attractive for a more efficient

private sector to join some of

the five per cent target.

The most alluring target would

be the country's more than \$50

billion foreign debt.

"They could pay off debts early

which would lower the debt ser-

vice ratio (of around 30 per cent)

and let them borrow more in the

future," he said.

The armed forces, fighting a

15-year civil war against U.S.-

backed guerrillas, will face

budget cutbacks of about 15 per

cent, he said.

He also revealed plans for a

long-term restructuring of the

financial sector, including the

creation of new commercial and

investment banks.

The financial package follows

World Bank calls for changes in

retail prices, taxes, and exchange

rates. Angola joined the bank

and the International Monetary

Fund in September, 1989.

Angola's budget deficit for

1991 is estimated at 50 billion

kwanzas (\$1.5 billion at the offi-

cial rate). Finance Minister

Aguinaldo Jaime said recently.

Van Dunem said the move

would reduce the importance of

the black market where one dollar

can fetch 2,000 kwanzas.

"We spend almost as much on

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## 2 Germanys, 4 World War II victors sign treaty on unity

MOSCOW (AP) — The four World War II powers that defeated and carved up Nazi Germany signed a treaty Wednesday with the Germans sanctioning their unification and heralding the return of full sovereignty to people.

Foreign ministers from the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain signed the historic document along with representatives from the two German states in the Soviet Communist Party's plush Oktyabrskaya Hotel.

The so-called two-plus-four agreement is the last major document needed to clear the way for unification and eventually will end the World War II allies' special rights on German soil.

It marks the crowning of months of sometimes worried talks over Germany's future strategic role. Other nations, voicing reservations because of Germany's Nazi past, had expressed concern over what some perceived as the potential threat of a nation of 80 million Germans in the heart of Europe.

The treaty incorporates built-in limits — demanded by the Soviets — on the Germans' military might. It also contains the Germans' acknowledgement that

they cannot regain lands forfeited to Poland after the Nazis' defeat in 1945.

The end of the special powers for the World War II allies above all concerns Berlin, which is now technically under the administration of the four nations and not part of West Germany. After unification, Berlin becomes one city within a united Germany.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev watched West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher affix the first signature, followed by East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

The four allies were next:

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

After the signing, Shevardnadze shook hands with Genscher and De Maiziere. The six ministers, plus Gorbachev, drank a champagne toast.

"This treaty marks the end of the cold war era," De Maiziere said in a speech. "It is part of the most important body of European treaties of the postwar period."

Western diplomatic sources said the participants did not resolve until two hours before the

treaty was signed a dispute over NATO troop manoeuvres in what is now East Germany after the withdrawal of Red Army troops by 1994.

The ministers negotiated until 3 a.m. and again later Wednesday morning before reaching a compromise, the sources said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. They did not say what the compromise was.

Genscher lauded the treaty late Tuesday, saying it marks "a new chapter not just in German history but also in European history."

The two Germanys have chosen Oct. 3 as their unity date, less than a year after East Germans' hard-line Communist rulers were ousted in a peaceful popular revolution.

Full German sovereignty is expected a couple of months later, after ratification of the two-plus-four agreement.

In addition to the two-plus-four agreement, Bonn and Moscow have been negotiating agreements covering long-term financial aid for the Soviets as well as generous payments to facilitate the withdrawal of Red Army troops from East Germany. West German officials say the two strictly German-Soviet docu-

ments are nearly ready to sign.

The Soviet Union's decision to give full blessing to German unity has been made in tandem with Bonn's promises of financial help. The aid will mean a sizeable commitment by the Germans to help salvage the Soviet Union's devastated economy.

Details on the financial aid package have not been released.

However, West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Tuesday that his government had agreed to pay \$7.6 billion for restraining Red Army troops and for building housing for soldiers returning home to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets had demanded about \$12 billion to cover the costs for the four-year withdrawal of the 370,000 Red Army troops from what is now East Germany. Bonn had initially offered \$4.5 billion.

The final haggling was left to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Gorbachev, who discussed the matter by telephone Monday.

The United States and its two Western partners were quick in giving their approval to German unity, but the Soviets were harder to move. At first,

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## Aquino orders truce with rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino Wednesday ordered a truce with Communist rebels in Manila and areas devastated by a July 16 earthquake, despite doubts by the military that the move will bring peace.

Mrs. Aquino said the decision was made in response to widespread calls for a "genuine peace" in this troubled island nation.

The truce is the broadest since a nationwide ceasefire lapsed in February 1987, although recent rebel activity in the truce area has been limited as quake recovery efforts proceed.

"In response to the people's call for a genuine peace, I have directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain the suspension of offensive military operations in the earthquake-affected areas and the national capital region," she said.

The president did not explain why she chose to exclude some quake-affected areas from the truce.

More than 700 have died in five weeks of fighting around Johannesburg, mainly between supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and followers of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The death toll include over 100 since last Friday.

Fighting raged through the night in several townships near Johannesburg, South Africa's business and industrial core.

Residents flung up makeshift barricades and sealed off entrances to some townships, saying they were "too scared" unless equipped with armoured vehicles,

which they said were scarce.

Reuter photographer Ulli Michel reported scenes of devastation in Phola Park, a squat Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, a member of the Cabinet Security Committee, said the truce would apply in the Manila area and the provinces of Benguet, Mountain and Nueva Vizcaya, which were badly damaged by the July 16 quake.

"Inkatha guys were dropped from (armoured vehicles) by police and they attacked with AK-47s and hand grenades and set the place alight," said one witness who refused to give his name.

Residents said four people were killed in that raid, including an old blind man burned to death in bed.

Police said 12 people were

hacked to death or shot in fighting between Zulu migrant workers and residents of Tembisa township east of Johannesburg during the night.

A spokesman said a total of nine bodies, some chopped to pieces and other burnt beyond recognition, were found in Vosloorus, Kyalami and Tokoza.

Three people were killed in Soweto when assailants ambushed a mini-bus with Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles. Police said the bus, taking hotel workers home, had probably been mistaken for a police vehicle because it was yellow like many police cars.

A body with stab wounds was found on a railway line in Soweto. After a series of brutal, indiscriminate attacks on commuter trains, black workers in "white" Johannesburg queued for hours to try to go to and from work.

A white police constable was killed and three of his colleagues injured after being led into an ambush in Soweto.

A police spokesman said they had gone to investigate a tip-off that arms had been hidden in a house.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen said Tuesday he hoped it would become easier to lift anti-apartheid sanctions after de Klerk's visit to Washington later this month.

But Cohen, who has special responsibility for African affairs at the State Department, warned that the end of sanctions would be subject to a lengthy legislative process.

Speaking after talks with Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Cohen said he was pleased to see the progress being made towards ending apartheid under de Klerk's sweeping reform programme.

### 19 killed in gold mine blast

Nineteen miners died and 22 were injured in an explosion at a South African gold mine, the Anglo American Corp of South Africa said Wednesday.

Anglo said the blast, in the eastern mine of its Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company, occurred early in the morning about 2,000 metres below the surface.

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## China hails Cambodian accord, ready to talk with Hun Sen

PEKING (Agencies) — China hailed an agreement among warring Cambodian factions on ending 11 years of fighting and implied Wednesday that it was willing to talk to the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh to pave the way for peace.

It was the second major rebel

attack on Samar since rebels killed seven soldiers and two civilians during a raid on the nearby Marabout town hall on Sept. 2.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, a member of the Cabinet Security Committee, said the truce would apply in the Manila area and the provinces of Benguet, Mountain and Nueva Vizcaya, which were badly damaged by the July 16 quake.

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